

CONTENTS

Focus on Numismatic Collections in University

Museums	1
<i>Aberdeen</i>	1
<i>Cambridge</i>	2
<i>Glasgow</i>	2
<i>Manchester</i>	3
Exhibition Reviews	4
News	5
Diary	
<i>Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia and Conferences</i>	7
<i>Temporary Exhibitions</i>	8
<i>Auctions and Fairs</i>	8

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

Contributions and information will be gratefully received. Items for the April issue should arrive by 15 February, 1998, and should be sent to Gareth Williams or Amanda Gregory, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC 1B 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 UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS

Previous issues of the CCNB Newsletter have focused on the numismatic holdings of both national and local museums around Britain. A further important group of collections can be found in a number of university museums. University collections are all the more important as they are often used (like the national collections) for teaching purposes, and thus play a central role in the training of new generations of numismatists. It is, of course, impossible to give comprehensive coverage of university collections in a single issue, and those presented here should be seen only as a representative sample. A further issue on the subject is planned for the future.

THE MARISCHAL MUSEUM COLLECTION, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

Although better known for its ethnographic and archaeological material, the collection of some forty thousand coins and medals gives the Marischal Museum of the University of Aberdeen the third most important coin cabinet in Scotland. Tracing its origins to the 1495 foundation of King's College, the University of Aberdeen was formed in 1860 from the fusion of King's College and Marischal College (founded in 1593). Marischal Museum was founded in 1907 as the University's Anthropological Museum, drawing together a number of University collections into the early 19th-century granite building of Marischal College in the centre of Aberdeen.

The coin collection is probably best known through the publication of its Newnam Davies collection of Greek coins which was the subject of one of the early Greek sylloges (*SNG*) in 1936. This cabinet of some five hundred coins had been purchased in 1880 by the Wilson Trustees, who managed a sum of money bequeathed to the University in 1871 along with the Wilson Collection of Classical and Eastern Antiquities. Also of note is the large parcel of several thousand pennies from the huge Edwardian Upperkirkgate (Aberdeen) hoard found in 1886.

At that time there was already a coin collection in existence in the University, for a catalogue of the King's College Archaeological Museum in 1887 refers to a separate catalogue of coins 'in preparation', though this does not appear to have been completed. In any event, the bulk of the present collection seems to have been acquired by 1912 when a printed catalogue of the contents of the Anthropological Museum included 'a large collection of Greek, Roman, Oriental, modern continental and British coins from various University graduates and numerous individual donors'.

There have been few significant donations or purchases this century and there is not currently an active acquisitions policy in this area. However mention may be made of a collection of war medals awarded to soldiers with the surname Gordon, currently being built up through the generosity of an anonymous donor of that name. In recent years the collection has been reorganised and housed in modern metal cabinets with the result that everything is easily accessible. There is an ongoing programme of computerising the collection whereby each specimen is being given an individual registration number.

Classical coins constitute the majority of the cabinet with approximately 7000 from the Greek series, 1200 Roman Republican and 8000 Roman Imperial along with 500 Byzantine pieces. In addition to the Upperkirkgate pennies, there are around 1000 English hammered coins and a further 1200 milled coins mainly ending with the death of Queen Victoria. The Scottish collection contains 600 coins without undue emphasis on 17th-century copper, while Ireland and the islands are represented by a further 300 pieces.

There are approximately 4500 European coins in the Museum. These are mainly of France and Germany and overall most are modern, with only a few medieval issues present. The Oriental collection - India, China and other Asiatic countries - amounts to almost 4000 coins. America - the United States, Canada and South America - is less

well represented with around 500 specimens.

The Cabinet also contains some 800 commemorative and prize medals, mainly 19th-century and later. Many of these are of north-eastern Scottish interest and not surprisingly there is a good run of Aberdeen University prize medals. Included is the Nobel Prize for Medicine awarded in 1923 to J. J. R. Macleod for his part in the discovery of insulin. There are, too, substantial holdings of trade tokens, checks, jettons and beggars' badges. The Museum's 8500 communion tokens constitutes one of the larger such collections in Scotland.

At present only a small number of items are on display, including some local finds and issues of the Aberdeen mint, from which building an ornate wooden coat of arms of James IV is also exhibited. Other items are periodically shown as are touring exhibitions from outside. However, it is planned to devote the cases on the upper North Gallery to a permanent numismatic display in the near future. Meanwhile access to the main collection is welcomed by appointment with the Senior Curator of Marischal Museum, Neil Curtis.

Donal Bateson
Neil Curtis

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM, CAMBRIDGE

Britain is fortunate in having several important and long established university coin cabinets, which are active and well staffed, and provide an alternative focus to those of the national museums. Relieved of many of the public responsibilities that the national museums bear, the university collections can concentrate more on providing facilities for teaching and research, while remembering that the first duty of any museum is to look after its collections and provide access to the public.

Cambridge University's coin collection has its origins in the late 16th century, when Andrew Perne (c.1519-89) bequeathed his collection of Roman coins. The independent college collections, of which all but one have now been deposited in the Fitzwilliam, have acquisition records dating back in some cases to the 17th century – Trinity, for example, received a collection of Civil War money from the daughter-in-law of Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634), James I's Chief Justice.

In principle, the Fitzwilliam's numismatic collections are universal in scope, although not all series are equally represented. The Ancient Greek series is particularly strong – recently rated by De Callatay fifth in the world after Berlin, London, Paris and New York – and its medieval European coins, essentially the collection of Philip Grierson, are pre-eminent. The Fitzwilliam has always relied heavily on gifts and bequests, but it has had an active purchasing policy since the 1860s. Today, the 'budget' for purchases is very small but, with the help of funds from Prof. Grierson and others and from grants and museum endowments, we have recently been able to spend £30,000-£50,000 a year. The departmental library also tries to be comprehensive in its coverage, and with access to Prof. Grierson's books and periodicals it is an excellent resource for research. Its catalogue can be consulted via the University Library (<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/Catalogues/OPAC/>).

The coin collection was originally managed by an Honorary Keeper, and the first full-time assistant was appointed in 1909. Today, the Department of Coins and Medals has six full-time staff (three of whom are on externally-funded research contracts) and a part-time

librarian, while Philip Grierson, our Honorary Keeper since 1949, and Ted Buttrey, a former Keeper, also work regularly in the Coin Room. Since his retirement in 1991, Prof. Buttrey has put much of his energy into building up the collection of numismatic sale catalogues, which for 20th-century sales is now probably the best in Europe.

The Department plays its part in university teaching. While a wholly numismatic paper is not regarded as viable in Cambridge, the staff regularly contribute lectures or classes for special subjects in six different faculties, introducing quite a wide range of students to numismatic evidence. Two PhD students are also working on medieval numismatic topics supervised in the Department.

We have a number of research projects, of which the longest running is *Medieval European Coinage* ('MEC'), a series in 15 volumes based on the Fitzwilliam collection. It is being prepared by Prof. Grierson assisted by two research associates and a number of foreign collaborators. The Corpus of Early Medieval Coin Finds from the British Isles 410-1180 ('EMC') is gathering information and images of some 6,000 single finds in a database, which will shortly be available for interrogation on the Web. The project and its research associate are funded for three years by the Leverhulme Trust. Under another scheme we are bringing Indian scholars to Cambridge for three months at a time to work on and publish sections of the Indian collection. A catalogue of the Islamic collection is also being prepared, in this case by the curator of Oriental coins in Prague, Vlastimil Novák, who has spent several summers in Cambridge, mainly through the generosity of Mr Samir Shamma. Each year we welcome two visiting scholars under arrangements established by the E. S. G. Robinson Trust, a one-month Fellowship and a two-month Studentship for younger scholars. All this results in a very international atmosphere in the Department.

The coin collection was originally housed in the Library, but a special Coin Room was built in 1922, financed by the McClean family. Since then it has expanded into a series of six other small rooms and is something of a rabbit warren. We are now desperately short of space for coin cabinets, books and people. The Museum's bold plans for expansion include a new premises for the Department of Coins and Medals, which would satisfy our needs well into the 21st century, but funding for this has still to be found. Any suggestions welcome!

The Coin Room is developing its own pages on the Fitzwilliam's web site (<http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/>).

Mark Blackburn

THE HUNTER COIN CABINET, GLASGOW UNIVERSITY

It is perhaps remarkable that the Hunter Coin Cabinet still ranks among the world's great collections despite being mainly based on William Hunter's late 18th-century cabinet.

Nevertheless, since coming to Glasgow the Hunterian collections have more than doubled in size to around 70,000 items.

The cabinet was put together by Hunter, a Scot who was then one of the leading physicians in London, between 1770 and 1783. Along with the rest of his collections it was bequeathed to Glasgow University. Dr



Glasgow University

Hunter was a ruthless collector who preferred to buy complete cabinets from which he retained the best pieces, and he also persuaded friends, including George III, to part with rare possessions. However, this was done with the intention of making it available to the public and resulted in a very comprehensive cabinet containing many rarities and little duplication.

Not surprisingly, Hunter's main interest lay in the classical series and his holdings of Greek and Roman Imperial coins are outstanding, added to which are smaller numbers of Roman Republican and Byzantine issues. In addition there are good collections of Anglo-Saxon, English hammered and milled, Scottish and Irish coins. There is also an excellent collection of medals, especially British and Papal medals.

Few specimens were added during the 19th century but in 1924 the University was gifted the late 19th-century Coats (of Paisley) collection of classical, English and British coins. In the 1970s large donations of modern British and foreign coins and communion tokens were donated by J. R. Lockie. More recently, the Maclean collection has doubled the size of the communion token collection to make it one of the largest in existence. Numerous other donations, finds and purchases have added greatly to the Hunterian's numismatic holdings. The bequest of Walter Allen in 1990 has enabled the Cabinet to pursue a more active acquisitions policy.

It was William Hunter's intention to make his collection readily available through publication though only one volume, of Greek coins, had appeared by the time of his death in 1783. However, the complete Greek collection was later published by Sir George Macdonald in three volumes by Professor Anne Robertson, who was also responsible for a sylloge of the Anglo-Saxon coins. A further sylloge on the Scottish coins has also appeared and most recently a volume covering the Byzantine and early European coins. This work continues with the preparation of sylloges on English pence 1066-1279 and the Roman provincial coins.

Different keys held by different professors made access to the coins difficult throughout the 19th century and even after the construction of a purpose-built coin room in 1870 admission was restricted. However, to commemorate the bicentenary of Hunter's death, a coin gallery opened in 1983 to allow the public for the first time to see a variety of the classical and Scottish coins. This gallery was replaced in 1996 with one trebled in size to allow a more comprehensive display. The main exhibition deals with coinage in Western Europe with

subsidiary displays on medals, common coins and communion tokens. There is an on-going programme of temporary exhibitions.

The University's students, too, have greater access and the collection is much more actively used for teaching. Numismatic contributions are made in Archaeology, Classics and History. In Archaeology two honours classes or modules, of ten weeks, are delivered in alternate years on the Interpretation of Coin Finds and the Development of Greek and Roman Coinage. Undergraduate and post-graduate theses can also be undertaken.

Computerisation of the collection is under way using the in-house Inca database while details of the permanent exhibition and temporary displays are available on Glasgow University's web site [<http://www.gla.ac.uk/Museum/>]. The Curator can be contacted by e-mail using J.D.Bateson@museum.gla.ac.uk.

Donal Bateson

DEPARTMENT OF NUMISMATICS, MANCHESTER MUSEUM

The Manchester Museum was formed in 1869, when the collections of the Manchester Natural History Society and the Manchester Geological Society were amalgamated with those of Owen's College (the forerunner of Manchester University) under the aegis of the latter. The Museum occupies a splendid Victorian Gothic building designed by Alfred Waterhouse, which is currently undergoing extensive refurbishment with the help of a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. On completion, the collections - including numismatics - will be better housed and displayed, and their quality and scope made more obvious to the visitor.

Coins and medals have formed a significant part of the Museum collections from an early date, with major lifetime gifts and bequests from prominent local businessmen and members of the University Council. The most important amongst these have been the collections of Reuben Spencer (Chairman of John Rylands and Sons, whose philanthropy also founded the famous John Rylands Library in Manchester), William Smith Churchill, Alfred Gueterbock, William Sharp Ogden and (in the late 1950s) Harold Raby (who was Honorary Keeper of Numismatics in the Museum for 20 years). Although the rate of growth of the coin and medal collections has inevitably slowed down in recent decades, the Department of Numismatics has continued to benefit occasionally from the generosity of friends, in recent years most notably from Alec Arditti, Julia Carter Preston and the National Trust.

The numismatic collections currently number some 63,500 specimens, made up as follows:

Greek (autonomous)	3,000
Roman (incl. colonial)	11,000
Byzantine (incl. barbarian)	1,500
British	4,400
British colonies	1,600
Mainland Europe (mostly 17th-19th cent.)	30,000
Oriental	4,000
Tokens	3,600
Medallions (British and European, 17th-19th cent)	2,000
Other (incl. so-called 'paranumismatica')	2,400
	<u>63,500</u>

In addition to the permanent collections, and a long-term loan from the Manchester City Art Gallery (200



The unique half follis of Isaura of Heraclius (MIB 197) from the Shaw collection.

Anglo-Saxon silver and copper from three 19th-century hoards), two significant private collections are on deposit (post-395 Roman, early Byzantine and barbarian coinages in all the metals - 700 pieces; and autonomous Greek silver and copper - 600 pieces)

The above summary indicates the main areas of strength: the ancient coins, the coinages of mainland Europe, and the oriental series (which includes the Indian collection of Daniel Howorth).

The collection is largely unpublished, but *SNG VII* (1986) contains almost all the precious metal Greek coins, the *Hersh Festschrift* (1998) a catalogue of all the Roman Republican issues, and *CH VII* a summary of the coins of Roman Alexandria (1,500 specimens). In addition, several of the Department's Roman coin hoards have been published over the years, including the recent Alderley Edge find of 564 early 4th-century pieces (*Coin Hoards from Roman Britain X* [1997]).

The Department of Numismatics has very few funds to draw upon to add to the collections, and, as is the case with the coin cabinets in all university museums, it must rely largely upon outside assistance (including grant-aid) to make significant acquisitions. The most notable recent additions have been the purchase (with the help of an MGC/V&A Purchase Fund Grant) of the Jock Shaw collection of Byzantine and related copper coins (1,100 pieces), an acquisition which went a long way towards filling the most obvious gap in the collections of ancient coins, and the gift of a large number of plaster models, moulds and drawings by the medallist Edward Carter Preston, representing a comprehensive archive of the work of this well-known 20th century artist (perhaps best-known for the Next-of-Kin medal, or 'Death Plaque').

The collecting area that is most actively pursued by the Department is that of medallions and tokens of Manchester, a field that is dictated as much by cost considerations as local public interest.

The administration of the Department of Numismatics is dependent upon part-time staff - a Keeper and Honorary Curatorial Associate. The following contact points might be found useful:

Department of Numismatics, Manchester Museum
University of Manchester, Oxford Road
Manchester M13 9PL
Telephone: 0161-275-2661; Fax: 0161-275-2676
E-mail: keith.sugden@man.ac.uk
web site: <http://www.mcc.ac.uk/Museum/numismatics/numis.htm>
Keith Sugden

EXHIBITIONS

'ONE BY ONE': European Commemorative Medals of the Great War 1914-1918

Ten years ago it was quite generally accepted that commemoration of the World Wars was coming to a natural end and it was even suggested that the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II might be an

appropriate moment to cease remembrance.

In fact that anniversary brought about a great revival of interest among those too young to have experienced either war. This exhibition is both an example of and a response to this revival of feeling for those who, in Wilfred Owen's words, were victims of a generation that, rather than offering up the Ram of Pride, slew their own sons "and half the seed of Europe one by one."

Lucy Cullen, Wendy Fisher and Norbert Jopek have used the collection of First World War medals, for the first time since their acquisition (largely in the period 1916-20), to do what their makers and donors intended: present a memorial of the First War.

Four themes are tackled: the Coming of the War, Propaganda, the End of the War and Remembrance. French, German and British medals are used to illustrate each theme, as are posters and a wonderful collection of postcards from the Front. Extended quotations from the work of the British war poets, and contemporary popular music strengthen the evocative power of the visual material on show.

An extensive and detailed catalogue accompanying the exhibition is informative about the medals and refers briefly to the posters and postcards. If there were a regret about the exhibition it would be that the Victoria and Albert Museum was not better provided with the work of Ludwig Gies and Karl May. It would have been wonderful to have seen their powerful commentary on the brutality and futility of war, alongside Lissy Eckhart's moving 'Funeral of a hero'.

Mark Jones
This exhibition can be seen at the Victoria and Albert Museum until 11th February 1999.

EARLIER MONETARY UNIONS

In an important and topical exhibition at the British Museum early examples of monetary unions are explored. The exhibition, which continues till 10 January 1999, was arranged in conjunction with a one-day conference at the Institute of Historical Research. Both events enjoyed the generous sponsorship of Visa International. It is good to see the museum world so ready and able to exploit contemporary interest in monetary questions as a means of drawing a new public towards numismatics. With the approach of the Euro, many people who have had no previous interest in coins will begin to ask questions about them. Moreover, many economists who are concerned about future developments could do worse than examine past experience for possible clues. It has been famously remarked that history teaches that history teaches us nothing. Certainly the lessons of the past are not straightforward. Nevertheless, whatever the differences between the monetary circulation of the ancient, medieval and modern worlds, it remains true that to an astonishing degree money tends always to behave like money. Many of its characteristics are of surprising longevity. In the economy of ancient Greece we can observe a flourishing international trade, accompanied by import and export duties, and states operating closed currency zones with established currency exchange rates. These barriers prompted different solutions: for example, Phocaea and Mytilene co-ordinated their currencies in the 4th century BC, while the Achaean League pushed towards much fuller integration in the 3rd-2nd centuries BC. Where no such official initiatives were forthcoming, imitation and the emergence of

dominant popular currencies such as that of Athens in the 4th century BC, or of Alexander the Great in the 3rd-2nd centuries enjoyed a degree of common currency on an informal basis.

These are the themes attractively illustrated by a wide range of coins chosen from ancient and modern examples. While it is argued that the Roman currency in fact displayed more local and regional variety than might have been expected from an Empire so carefully and efficiently governed, the Middle Ages provides a range of examples of unity imposed from above (the Carolingian coinage), of unity spreading by popular choice in defiance of local rulers' wishes (the sterling, the florin, the ducat), and even of formal pacts between sovereign states to permit the common circulation of one another's coins (eg Burgundian double patards in England). Modern examples include the widespread acceptance of the British sovereign, and the more formal response of the Latin Monetary Union.

If history provides numerous instances of this trend towards common currencies, it equally suggests that such schemes did not generally last in the long term. The forces moving in favour of unity are matched by other trends breaking such unity down. The exhibition includes a souvenir of the debate currently exercising British public opinion in the form of a sample front page from the 'Sun', with its contribution to measured and sober debate. There is much food for thought here, and a host of interesting and attractive coins to admire, excellently displayed and intelligently discussed.

Nick Mayhew

This exhibition can be seen in Gallery 69a at the British Museum until 10 January, 1999.

NEWS

GEORGE PEASE, 1907-1998: AN APPRECIATION

It is with great sadness that I report the death of George Pease, which occurred at Wareham Community Hospital on Saturday October 24th 1998, at the advanced age of 91.

George Francis Pease, born on May 15th 1907, was inspired by horses from an early age. His working career was spent at Lloyds Bank, under the sign of the black horse. By the time he joined the Wessex Numismatic Society in February 1950, living in his native Wareham, he was already a keen collector. Naturally, the one speciality which he nurtured throughout his collecting life was the theme of horses on coins, a topic which encompasses virtually every possible series, from classical Greek right through to European medieval and modern, including tokens and medals. Later, in the 1970s, he developed a secondary passion for enamelled coins.

George Pease was a member of our Society for 43 years, from 1950 until 1993. That is a record which still stands - just. During that time he lectured to us on three occasions, in 1951, 1960 and 1965, although he was a frequent contributor to our members' evenings when he showed and talked about pieces from his collection. That collection, a lifetime's achievement, was auctioned under an anonymous banner by Cottey's of Wareham on Tuesday, October 20th - as it transpired, a mere four days before his ultimate death from pneumonia, after a long and debilitating illness. The sale, of 182 lots, achieved a

very satisfactory £28,875, with most of the material being secured by the London trade. I'm very pleased to say that some members of the Society were at the auction and managed to acquire pieces from the Pease Collection.

Mr Pease - for he was always known to us thus - had not been a regular attender at our meetings since the early 1980s, but we welcomed him back one final time in September 1992, when our Patron, Mrs Johnstone, presented him with one of our coveted Wessex Medals, 'for long and outstanding service to the Society in the past'.

Peter Preston-Morley

Secretary, Wessex Numismatic Society

1998 BANS Autumn weekend, 18-20 September

This replaces the Lecture Course, perhaps a more attractive title - at any rate, many more people attended. Or was it because it commemorated the late Frank Snow who did so much, in his genial, laid-back way, to make earlier occasions so welcoming? Mrs Bridget Snow was able to be with us, appropriately.

We lived, ate and absorbed lectures in the historic Gonville and Caius College (founded in 1348), though we did have one dinner in Trinity Hall, so we saw that college too.

By fitting in three short papers in Friday night, we managed to squeeze in seven papers, every one of which I found most interesting. Joe Bispham, besides organising the event, gave a talk on *Trials for the Fine Coinage of 1551*; Thomas Curtis on *A Portrait of the Roman Republic* and Graham Dyer *No coin too small* (which turned out to be a half-farthing).

On Saturday, Edward Besly spoke on *The Wisest Fool: Coinage of James I*, which is rarely chosen as a subject; the Royal Mint lecture was given by John Porteous, the Bursar of the College, on the workings of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee, of which he is the longest-serving member after Prince Philip.

Dr Grierson, once the College Librarian, showed some of us round the magnificent library, and Dr Blackburn and Martin Allen took us round the Coin and Medal Room at the Fitzwilliam (with some amazing coin cabinets!).

On Sunday, Dr Jonathan Williams spoke on *Coins and Medals of Carausius in the British Museum*, and Dr Mark Blackburn on *Gold Currency in the Early Middle Ages*. A wonderful and very full weekend, for which thanks are due to all who took part, and especially to John Porteous and the College, and of course to Joe Bispham the organizer.

AJ Holmes



This coin cabinet in the Fitzwilliam was made by a Cambridge cabinet maker, C. P. Bulstrode c. 1880 for S. S. Lewis. Each slice of the urn is a tray which has to be lifted off a central brass rod. (Photo Fitzwilliam Museum)

FIDEM 1998 IN THE HAGUE

The congress opened in the spectacular setting of the medieval Ridderzaal, home until recently of the Dutch Parliament. Following the formal opening, two complementary lectures, on the origins and the future of the medal, given respectively by Stephen Scher of the United States and Janwillem Schrofer of the Amsterdam Rijksakademie, established the parameters of the congress, the principal theme of which was that of Influences.

The two parallel series of talks that followed were given in the temporary premises of The Hague's Royal Academy of Fine Arts. One was devoted to the history of the medal from the Renaissance to the twentieth century, whilst in the other artists presented their own works and those of other contemporary medallists. Amongst the artists was Mirjam Mieras, who had created the official congress medal, Moon and Mouse, perhaps the most beautiful and certainly the most exciting FIDEM medal ever. An ingenious work, which evokes the all-embracing nature of medals, it has been discussed by fellow artist Geer Steyn in the Autumn 1998 issue of *The Medal*.

The principal exhibition of the congress, the international medal exhibition, also looked both to the past and to the future. Held in the recently completed Museum Beelden aan Zee in nearby Scheveningen, it was different in its scope from previous FIDEM exhibitions. Whereas those have consisted solely of medals produced in the previous two or three years, the exhibition laid out in the spacious gallery at Scheveningen was a survey of medals produced in the various member countries over a fifty year period, from the end of the Second World War to 1998. The works on display ranged from traditional pieces from the 1940s to the most exciting medals of today.

Another new feature of this congress was the relay medal workshop, conceived and led by the sculptors Guus Hellegers and Lina Hodoroaba, and held parallel with the two series of talks. Each of the participating artists brought to this workshop a one-sided medal that he or she had made specifically for it. Each of these works was handed to a different artist, who was then charged with producing a second side for the medal. The results were laid out on the last day of the congress in a fascinating exhibition that showed artists responding to the challenge of new ideas and techniques, developing themes and adapting their styles in an orgy of creativity. The results will also be published in FIDEM's journal, *Médailles*.

Amongst the various other exhibitions staged to coincide with the congress was an exhibition of portrait medals of the Italian Renaissance at the Rijksmuseum Het Koninklijk Penningkabinet in Leiden. During their evening visit to the exhibition, participants were able to examine the superb display of medals drawn from the museum's collections, and were also given the chance to devise their own portrait medal in the Renaissance idiom, using the latest technology. Designed to demonstrate the different elements that make up the Renaissance medal, it gave everyone, including leading academics and celebrated artists, the chance to dress up as John VIII Palaeologus and others, albeit in a virtual sense, and to take home with them their own medal.

Other visits included one to the Kröller-Müller Museum in the Hoge Veluwe national park, where

participants could see the museum's impressive sculpture garden (in pouring rain) and its collection of paintings, and also an exhibition of drawings by Van Gogh. An art medal fair, a feature of FIDEM congresses since the 1992 London event, along with further workshops and receptions, and a final dinner at The Hague's select Sociëteit De Witte, completed a varied and stimulating programme.

The organisers, notably Louk Tilanus, Marjan Scharloo, Jan Tinga and Geer Steyn, are to be congratulated on a congress that enabled those attending both to learn from the past and to delve into the future, and that combined a sense of occasion with a welcoming informality. We now look forward to the twenty-seventh FIDEM congress, to be held in Weimar in the year 2000.

Philip Attwood

BANS 50th ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET

As mentioned in the last issue, the British Association of Numismatic Societies is planning to publish an anniversary booklet at its York Congress in April 1999. Most urgently needed is a copy of the programme of the Lecture Course held at Manchester in September 1977. Other early programmes and participant lists as well as general photographs taken at any of the meetings also would be welcome.

Items may be sent to BANS President Keith Sugden, Department of Numismatics, Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL.

BRITISH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY NEWS

The Anniversary Meeting was held on 24th November when Graham Dyer reported on another successful year's activities and gave his final Presidential Address on the copper coinage of William IV.

Dr David Dykes was elected as President, Edward Besly as Director, and Charles Farthing as Secretary. Marion Archibald, Joe Bispham, Kevin Clancy, Robin Eaglen and Douglas Saville are new members of Council for 1999. Members approved Council's proposal to keep the annual subscription at £24.

The meeting was followed by a very enjoyable party, sponsored this year by Mr Richard Lubbock, who proposed the toast to the Society. Volume 67 of the *British Numismatic Journal* should be received by members before the end of January.

HSBC MONEY GALLERY

DEVELOPMENT CURATOR

John Orna-Ornstein has been appointed as the HSBC Money Gallery Development Curator at the British Museum. He had previously been employed as a curator of Roman coins in the Museum's Department of Coins and Medals, and is replaced in his old position by Richard Abdy.

Mr. Orna-Ornstein's new role, in a position funded by HSBC Holdings plc, will be to provide support for the HSBC Money Gallery and to promote use of the Museum's collection of coins, banknotes and medals. One of his duties will be to coordinate biennial updates to the HSBC Money Gallery. These regular changes will ensure that the gallery continues to reflect the most recent developments in the history of money. He will also be responsible for ensuring that the gallery is accessible to as wide a range of visitors as possible by providing a range of auxiliary services such as gallery tours, handling

sessions and children's activities. Any individuals or groups requiring services such as gallery tours can contact Mr. Orna-Ornstein at the Department of Coins and Medals (tel. 0171 323 8266, email jornaornstein@british-museum.ac.uk).

APPLEDORE HOARD

The hoard of Anglo-Saxon silver pennies discovered last year near Appledore in Kent has now been acquired by the British Museum under the Treasure Act (1996), with the generous financial assistance of the NACF and the British Museum Society. The hoard, which consists almost exclusively in pennies of Edward the Confessor's 'Expanding Cross' type, will be displayed in the HSBC Money Gallery from the end of January 1999, for a period of around a year.

A further small parcel of coins of the same type was discovered on the same site earlier this year. These currently await a coroner's inquest.

IAPN BOOK PRIZE

On October 8, the International Association of Professional Numismatists awarded the 17th IAPN book prize for the best book on numismatics in 1997. First prize was shared by 'Money: a history', edited by Jonathan Williams, and 'The Story of Money' by John Orna-Ornstein, both published in conjunction with the opening of the HSBC Money Gallery. Second prize was awarded to 'Die Italienischen Medaillen der Renaissance und des Barock', by Lore Börner, which catalogues the collection of Italian Medals at the Münzkabinett in Berlin. Third prize was awarded to the 'Bibliography of 16th-century Numismatic Books', by C. E. Dekesel.

THE TREASURE ACT: ONE YEAR ON

The first anniversary of the Treasure Act in September 1998 provides an opportunity to take stock. The total number of cases of treasure reported in the first year of the Act was 165 (it was predicted that there might be between 100 and 200 cases a year). This is more than six times as many as the 25 finds a year that were being declared Treasure Trove, and means that the Act has passed its first hurdle of ensuring that more finds are reported. There have been a number of reports of undeclared treasure, but there is no evidence that the incidence is any higher than before. All but five of the 165 treasure cases are finds of gold and silver objects that should have been reported under the old law, so the Act does in fact seem to have led to an increased reporting rate.

All but eight of the finds came from England, the remaining coming from Wales (7) and Northern Ireland (1) (the Treasure Act does not apply in Scotland which has its own treasure law). No fewer than 73 coin finds have been reported as treasure; about twice the number of coin finds (both those that were Treasure Trove and those that were not) that the British Museum was recording before the change in the law. All these new finds will be published in summary form in the new annual report on the Treasure Act, the first of which will be published in summer 1999.

One of the most important changes in the Act is the requirement that objects found in association with treasure should be reported which is producing new archaeological insights. An example is provided by a find recently reported from Berkshire which includes 80

Roman silver *denarii*, 45 bronze coins of the same period together with Roman copper brooches and other objects. Under the old law there was no requirement to report the base metal objects, but they will qualify as treasure if they are deemed to be from the same find. This in turn raises the question of whether the brooches are likely to have been part of the same find as the coins: very few records exist of such finds from this period but this may simply be because they were not reported in the past. Other exciting finds include a Roman gold ring from Norfolk which contains a gold aureus of Postumus. This is only the second piece of Roman coin jewellery and the second aureus of Postumus ever to have been recorded from Britain.

Of the 77 cases whose disposition has so far been determined, 31 (40%) are being acquired by museums and the remainder have been disclaimed without the need for the coroner to hold an inquest and have been returned to the finders. Of the treasure finds that are being retained, the great majority are going to regional museums: the British Museum is acquiring only two of these 31 finds, while the National Museums & Galleries of Wales is acquiring a third.

There have been a few teething problems with the new system, as the museums and coroners responsible for administering the system get used to the new arrangements. There is a continuing need to ensure for all concerned to deal with cases as expeditiously as possible, as the Code of Practice states that it should not normally take more than a year between a finder handing in his find and the museum paying his reward.

Roger Bland

LECTURES, SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA AND CONFERENCES

Gods, Graves and Numismatics: A Symposium

The Third Cambridge Numismatic Symposium will be held on 12-13 March 1999 with the title: *Gods, Graves and Numismatics: Interpreting Early Medieval Coin Finds of Northern Europe in Sacred Contexts*. The conference will be held at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and will unite archaeologists and numismatists in an investigation of coins in graves, within churches, and in other sacred contexts (wells, foundations, hearths, boundaries etc). Social messages are embedded in such depositions, and the very material which numismatists may reject for analysing coin circulation, and which archaeologists may see mainly as a dating tool, actually forms a unique category of 'archaeo-numismatic' evidence. This symposium aims to shed light on the social practices reflected in coins found in sacred contexts, drawing comparisons across the different regions of Northern Europe.

Further details can be obtained from the organisers:

Dr Mark Blackburn, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge CB2 1RB, UK
Tel: 01223 33 29 17 / fax: 33 29 23 / e-mail: mab1001@cam.ac.uk
Kristin Bornholdt, Peterhouse, Cambridge, CB2 1RD, UK
Tel: 01223 328 823 / e-mail kab27@cus.cam.ac.uk

January

- 12 BAMS
The French and British in Egypt 1798-1801: the medallic view
Peter Clayton, Egyptologist and numismatist
- 19 RNS
Civic coin design in the Antonine Period, AD 138-192
Volker Heuchert
- 20 NMGW gallery talk
Towards a single Currency
Edward Besly, NMGW
- 26 BNS
Token issues and the Heralds' Visitations
Robert Thompson

February

- 9 BAMS
Gallantry medals: invention and restraint

- Clive Cheesman, Dept of Coins and Medals, British Museum, and College of Arms
- 10 NMGW gallery talk
Diocletian and the Roman 'Single Currency'
Edward Besly, NMGW
- 16 RNS
Ten years of Celtic Coinage of Britain: the impact of Van Arsdell on British Celtic Coinage
Philip de Jersey
- 17 NMGW gallery talk
Designing the euro
Kevin Clancy, Royal Mint
- 23 BNS
Iron-Age Coinage in Norfolk
John Davies

March

- 9 BAMS
'A chain of remarkable instances': medal-making and numismatics in 17thC Britain
Luke Syson, Dept of Coins and Medals, British Museum
- 10 NMGW gallery talk
British Imperial Currency
Graham Dyer, Royal Mint
- 16 RNS
Recent research on the Hoxne hoard
Peter Guest
- 23 BNS
Christopher Comber
The Anglo-Irish coinage of Elizabeth I
- 24 NMGW gallery talk
Preparing for the euro
Martin Cragg, Royal Mint

April

- 9-11 BANS Congress, York
Enquiries: Mr. D. Prince, 13 Barleyhill Crescent, Garforth, Leeds, LS25 1ED.
- 20 RNS
Sir John Evans and English numismatics
Hugh Pagan
- 27 BNS
The numismatic designs of Eric Gill
Joe Cribb

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.

British Numismatic Trade Association Ltd (BNTA) Mrs Carol Carter, General Secretary, PO Box 474A, Thames Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0WJ. Tel: 0181-398-4290, Fax: 0181-398-4291.

National Museums and Galleries of Wales (NMGW) Dr Edward Besly, National Museum and Gallery, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP. Tel: 01222 397951. All gallery talks start at 1.15pm and last for thirty minutes. They are free to visitors with a Museum admission ticket.

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 WC1 3DG, tel. 0171-323 8228. Unless otherwise stated all meetings held at 5.30pm, Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London WC1.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Leaden Hearts: 19th century convict tokens

Gallery 69a, British Museum, Great Russell St WC1B 3DG. 13 January - 11 April 1999

Towards a Single Currency

National Museum and Gallery, Cardiff

10.00am - 5.00pm, Tuesdays - Fridays, and Bank Holiday

Mondays. 16 January - 6 April 1999

This exhibition, arranged in conjunction with the Royal Mint, is timed to coincide with the introduction of the European Single Currency (euro) in January 1999. The Single Currency will be an important and far-reaching monetary development and, whilst Great Britain will not be one of the first members, many British people will experience the euro in action - both in business and on holiday.

This topical exhibition explores, mainly from a British viewpoint, historical episodes when countries have used each other's currencies. Also featured is the recent competition to decide the designs for the new euro coins: designs submitted by three leading British artists complement those approved for the new euro coinage.

AUCTIONS AND FAIRS

January

- 5 *Croydon Coin Auction*
South Park Hotel, South Park Hill Road, Croydon
Enquiries: Graeme Monk, tel 0181 656 4583
- 23 *Coin Fair*
Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High St, London W8
9.30am-3pm, admission £1
Enquiries: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel 0181 656 4583 or 0181 651 3890
- 27 *Auction of Ancient, English and World Coins and Historical Medals*
Glendining's

February

- 5 *Sale 14 - Auction of Ancient, modern and mediaeval coins*
Italo Vecchi Ltd
- 6 *The London Coin Fair*
Carlisle Suite, Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1
Enquiries: Frances Simmons, 0171 831 2080
- 16 *Croydon Coin Auction*
Details as January 5
- 20 *Coin Fair*
Commonwealth Institute (details as January 23)

March

- 3 *Auction 125 - Ancient English and Foreign Coins and Commemorative medals*
Spink's
- 4 *Taisei-Baldwin-Gillio Auction, Singapore*
Including a collections of coins of the Sultans of Bengal
Contact Baldwin's for details
- 20 *Coin Fair*
Commonwealth Institute (details as January 23)
- 21 *Arabian Coins & Medals LLC/Baldwin's Auctions Ltd, Dubai*
Islamic coins and regional coins and paper money
Contact Baldwin's for details
- 23 *Croydon Coin Auction*
Details as January 5
- 24 *Coin and Medal Sale*
Bonham's
- 24 *Auction of Orders, Decorations and Medals*
Glendining's

April

- 14 *Auction of Ancient, English and World Coins and Historical Medals*
Glendining's
- 17 *Coin Fair*
Commonwealth Institute (details as January 23)
- 28 *Banknotes Auction*
Spink's

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
Italo Vecchi Ltd: 35 Dover St, London W1X 3RA

Galata Print Ltd., Old White Lion, Llanfyllin, Powys SY22 5BX.