

CONTENTS

Focus on Forgeries	
<i>Historical forgeries</i>	1
<i>Modern forgeries</i>	2
<i>Paper money</i>	2
<i>A Dealer's View</i>	3
<i>Trading Standards</i>	4
Exhibition Reviews	5
News	6
Diary	
<i>Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia and Conferences</i>	7
<i>Temporary Exhibitions</i>	8
<i>Auctions and Fairs</i>	8

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Contributions and information will be gratefully received. Items for the September issue should arrive by (date in 1999), 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: FORGERIES

Last autumn we looked at reproductions of currency: this issue focuses on genuine forgeries, made with intent to deceive. The articles give examples of different types of forgery, and forger, through the ages, including the menace of modern forgeries of historical issues. Both manufacturing and distributing such items are offences, but prosecution is not always easy. Readers' attention is drawn to the advice given by the West Sussex Trading Standards Service.

COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY: AN INTRODUCTION

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle tells us that in 1125, during the reign of Henry I, a number of moneyers suspected of minting underweight coinage were gathered together in Winchester: '...when they came thither, they were taken one by one and each deprived of the right hand and the testicles below. All this was done in twelve days'. Other authorities have reacted to abuse of currency in a similarly draconian manner. The historian T. B. Macaulay recounts that in 18th. century Britain, 'Hurdles with four, five, six wretches convicted of counterfeiting or mutilating the money of the realm were dragged month after month up Holborn Hill. One morning seven men were hanged and one woman burned for clipping.' Abuse of currency, and in particular forgery - the imitation of currency with intent to deceive - has normally been seen as an attack on the state itself, depriving it of revenue and undermining confidence in its legitimate currency. The punishment for such offences was therefore necessarily severe from the state's point of view. On the other hand, the reward for the forger has clearly often been sufficient to justify the considerable risks involved in making and passing false coins or banknotes. In the Roman world, the silver from one denarius would have been sufficient to manufacture at least half a dozen plated forgeries. Since a first-century denarius was about a day's salary for a soldier or agricultural worker, the potential rewards from forgery could have been considerable.

The residents of Lydia in western Turkey were apparently not slow to spot this opportunity for profit.

The earliest known forgeries imitate the earliest known coins: Lydian electrum staters dating to the late 7th. century BC. These first forgeries are of a type that became common in the Ancient world. They have a core of one metal - in this case silver - covered by a thin plating of another. Thousands of Greek and Roman counterfeits are known. Most Greek forgeries were made by striking a blank of copper covered with silver foil, while in the Roman world both struck and cast counterfeits were produced on a large scale. Forgery was not restricted to the West and we also have evidence of counterfeit currency from an early date in China. Here the forgeries were normally debased versions of official copper coinage. Forgery is frequently referred to in texts of the Han period (206 BC - AD 220), and from this time on was generally subject to capital punishment. Counterfeiting has continued throughout the history of currency and has been particularly common when there are shortages of official currency, when currency is easy to imitate and when the population is largely illiterate. In late 18th. and early 19th. century Britain, all of these factors combined and there was forgery of coins and banknotes on an endemic scale.

Such counterfeiting has normally been carried out by individuals, but on occasion forged currency has been put into circulation by states and authorities. Wellington had gold napoleons counterfeited to supply his troops with locally-acceptable currency in the Peninsular War. Napoleon imitated Russian, Prussian and Austrian banknotes. Most famously, Germany forged £150,000,000 of Allied currency to fund SS objectives in the Second World War. So convincing were these last forgeries that some were apparently passed as genuine by the Bank of England and an estimated two-thirds eventually entered circulation.

Forgery continues to be a problem for modern governments. The main challenge facing today's authorities is not preventing forgery, however, but tackling fraud. With the use of credit cards, the attention of the criminal has largely moved from the replication of currency itself to the imitation of identity, allowing access to currency.

John Orna-Ornstein

THE MODERN CONTEXT

The fear of counterfeiting, quite naturally and properly, has been an enduring concern for the Royal Mint throughout its long history: the extent of the problem may have fluctuated, but never can it have been out of mind.

As far as the nineteenth century is concerned, there is evidence that the British gold coinage may have been comparatively free of counterfeits. In 1870 the Treasury Solicitor, looking to the fact that fewer than six cases had been handled by his Department in the preceding ten years, expressed the view that the counterfeiting of gold was of rare occurrence. This conclusion was echoed that same year by the Deputy Master of the Mint, whose confident assertion that the gold coinage was not counterfeited to any serious extent probably also contains an understandable element of relief.

The copper coinage, if an official survey in 1857 is to be believed, was likewise escaping large-scale infiltration, a state of affairs that continued after the adoption of the harder bronze alloy in 1860. It therefore seems to be the case that from the time of the currency reforms of 1816 it was the silver currency that was the most vulnerable, being of sufficient face value to offer a worthwhile profit to the counterfeiter while not being so valuable as to demand of the public a scrupulous examination of each coin received in change.

Even today most collectors make early acquaintance with base-metal counterfeits of the silver coinage of 1816 - 1820, as I did myself as a youngster in the 1950s. Skilfully made, they still have the capacity to deceive if they have not been relieved of their silver coating, and there is little doubt that they enjoyed an extensive production during the period when coins of George III dominated the silver currency. In the 1820s alone, more than two thousand people were charged with offences against the coinage.

Even more convincing are the later counterfeits made at the turn of the century. By then the price of silver had subsided to the point where it was possible for the counterfeiter to use more or less the correct weight of good silver and still make a profit. All the silver denominations were apparently targeted and, to avoid attracting attention, the spurious coins were given a deliberately worn appearance. They have become well known to numismatists because the perpetrators made the mistake of giving the half-crowns dates that did not officially exist - 1861, 1866, 1868 and 1871 - but it is not impossible that, where they show a correct date, some may continue to pass muster.

Production is perhaps unlikely to have reached huge proportions, and certainly by the early 1930s the number of counterfeits among the silver currency was reckoned to be very modest. In a calculation based on the quantity being identified by the Post Office, it was estimated in 1932 that the silver circulation of £50,000,000 contained just £163 in counterfeits. If this seems to challenge belief, at least the accompanying observation of an increase in the number of counterfeit sixpences and shillings being placed in automatic machines carries conviction.

Recent experience suggests that, for obvious reasons, only the highest value coins are at risk. The substantial counterfeiting that followed the introduction of the 50p piece in 1969 has dwindled to insignificant levels, and counterfeiters, when they can be bothered with coins at all, currently concentrate their energies on the £1 coin.

Forgeries vary from soft-metal casts to struck pieces in nickel-brass, a recent outbreak of the latter being distinguished by its mismatch of obverse and reverse designs. As always with counterfeits, it is difficult to say how many may exist but, reassuringly, it is certainly small when measured against the thousand million genuine £1 coins in circulation.

There is, of course, no room for complacency and the new circulating bi-colour £2 coin probably contains more safeguards against the counterfeiter than any coin previously issued in the United Kingdom.

Graham Dyer



This half-crown was produced by Robert Ramsay and James Steele, who were convicted in Edinburgh in 1930.

PRINTING THEIR OWN: FORGERS OF PAPER MONEY

In 1764 the career of J. Baillie, a Dundee schoolmaster, came to an ignominious end when he was transported to America, never to return, for forging banknotes. Daming evidence included forged notes of various banks found among his bedclothes, along with 'seven pieces of paper cut to the dimensions of the British linen company, and smoked, or otherwise discoloured, to a resemblance of the paper of that company's notes after being some time in circulation.' Despite the awful penalties of transportation or execution, the large number of such cases at this time shows that the spread of money made from paper offered an irresistible temptation to many enterprising individuals hoping to supplement inadequate incomes: they include soldiers, a merchant, a bookbinder and one 'who was bred a Scholar, but poor...and desirous to make an Appearance in the World, but wanting a fund convenient for his Purpose.'

The comparatively simple appearance of eighteenth and early nineteenth century banknotes was no doubt an additional encouragement; indeed, it was said that the Bank of England's notes could be forged by 'any one who can use a camel's hair pencil'. Some forgers were apparently diversifying from related skills - a journeyman watchmaker, for instance, must have been well able to cope with the intricacies of engraving a brass printing plate - but others chanced their luck with hand-drawn efforts in pen and ink. Banks often claimed that the results were so crude that they should not fool anyone, and while there was probably some wounded defensiveness in this, their view is vindicated by the number of perpetrators who were caught, and by surviving examples of forgeries, on which the hand-engraving in particular is often poor. But they could fool the innocent, for the forgers took advantage of circumstances in which paper money was common

By the later nineteenth century, greater sophistication in note manufacture and design inspired greater professionalism in counterfeiting. One extraordinary plot involved Leon Warneke, a foreign businessman living in south-east London who was well-respected for his inventions in photography. He was, however, also applying his talents to devise watermarks and printing inks for forgeries of Russian banknotes, as part of an international conspiracy to undermine several European economies. At least Warneke acted from choice and, presumably, according to his own ideological motives. Perhaps the most blameless forgers were those inmates of German concentration camps during the Second World War forced to divert their professional skills into the production of counterfeit Bank of England notes. With the lure of improved conditions and the uncertain promise that they would not be executed, artists, engravers, printers, cabinet-makers and dentists were 'volunteered' and sent to Sachsenhausen. Working in isolated barracks, the men surreptitiously did what they could to delay and sabotage the project.

preserve their integrity in the face of opportunities offered by colour photocopiers, scanners, laser printers - and an uncertain public. Not surprisingly, while the general designs of the notes have been publicised, details of the security devices are being kept firmly under wraps before the launch. It is likely, however, that they will include successful features from current national issues, such as watermarks, security threads and diffractive or reflective foils.

Bank of Scotland

ONE GUINEA

Bank of Scotland
£187
£142
The Governor and Company
of the BANK OF SCOTLAND established
by Act of Parliament promise to pay here
on demand to George Sandy or his assignees
ONE POUND ONLY IN FULL PAYMENT.
An Order of the Court of Directors
THE COURT OF DIRECTORS
John Smith per J. A. D.
Robertson & Co.

THIRTY YEARS ON - A DEALER'S VIEW

Earlier generations of counterfeiters had a technique or a style of their own, more or less quickly recognised by today's numismatists; forgeries in that mould still trouble the casual collector, but not the specialist. Modern forgers - seeking nothing but to profit from the

high prices paid for genuine rarities, especially ancient coins but also more modern machine-made coins - might be said not to imitate, but to seek to produce exact replicas of the genuine. Available technology has enabled reproduction to a higher degree of accuracy. False patination and artificially aged surface structure are not new, as Cigoi and Becker testify, but the use of ancient metal, spark erosion techniques, and high-pressure casting from originals, or their electrotypes, has resulted in false coins which require an understanding of the same technology to detect. In 1975, the IAPN founded the International Bureau for the Suppression of Counterfeit Coins (IBSCC), keeping close links with museums, collectors, dealers, police forces, and publishing regular specialised bulletins on counterfeits. Dealers who guarantee authenticity must make recompense for mistakes, but only rarely are modern counterfeiters of non-current coin punished at law. Decisions on authenticity have traditionally been taken on the basis of the vision of experts within the Association, and consultation with curators of national collections where material for comparison is to be found. Scientific research in laboratories is a more costly procedure, and takes time, but it may be the only truly scientific approach. The analysis of coin surfaces by energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence can provide figures for chemical composition which help to set apart counterfeits, old and new, from the true coinage, when a large enough sample of analyses are considered. Some progress in the fight against forgery may have been made since 1965; certainly the publication of new forgeries has increased, but there is little evidence of any "penalty of prosecution" for the offences committed by the forger, and no-one is able to relax vigilance.

3

WHEN ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT WHAT IT SEEMS

In December 1997 West Sussex Trading Standards received an unusual complaint from a local man regarding his purchase of 43 assorted ancient coins. It is a somewhat sorry tale but it is hoped that others may learn from his unfortunate experience.

He had purchased the coins on four separate occasions from the same person. Three of the purchases were made at car boot sales and the fourth at an antique market. He had paid a total price of £8,750 by cash and received no receipt or other paperwork, but alleged that the vendor had used a Seaby catalogue to show that the coins purchased matched the descriptions of coins of the same period and were genuine. Nine months after the purchases were made, the buyer began to suspect that the coins were forgeries and approached Trading Standards.

Section 1 of the 1968 Trade Descriptions Act states that:

"Any person who in the course of a trade or business applies a false trade description to any goods or supplies or offers to supply goods to which a false trade description is applied commits an offence."

There are four vital points:

- 1) there must be a false trade description
- 2) it must be applied to the goods in question
- 3) the application must be in the course of a trade or business
- 4) there must be an offer to supply, or an actual supply of the goods involved

The four sets of coins were labelled and sent to the British Museum Coins and Medals Department for identification and authentication. The Museum identified the following coins:-

Anglo-Saxon Offa, Alcred, Coenwulf, Coelwulf
Celtic Caractacus, Verica, Eppillus
Four Roman Emperor Constantius II imitations
Two silver crowns (5 shilling pieces) dated 1651

In all, 23 coins were identified as forgeries. In such cases it is essential that expert evidence is obtained as quickly as possible as the legislation has time limits for prosecutions: three years from the commission of the offence or one year from discovery, whichever is the earlier. A person found guilty of an offence can receive a fine of up to £5,000 and/or imprisonment of up to two years for each offence.

It was decided to test the composition and patination of five coins using X-ray diffraction and fluorescence. All the coins were confirmed as silver-based alloys; they were purer than expected but were not completely inconsistent with genuine coins of the same period. The purchaser's cheques were traced to the seller's account and he was formerly interviewed, when he admitted selling some artefacts, silver, tokens and medals, but no coins.

With no receipt or witnesses to the sales it was impossible to prove "beyond all reasonable doubt" that false descriptions had been applied to the coins and the investigations could not proceed. The purchaser was left with 43 largely valueless coins for his £8,750.

What can be learnt from this? Our Service would recommend that if you buy at car boot sales, markets or other venues you do the following:

- 1) Obtain a receipt for all purchases identifying the name and address of the seller. Make a note of any car registration number if at a market or boot sale. Check with the market manager to confirm identity.

2) Always establish the item's description (have the seller put this on the receipt)

3) Cash transactions cannot be traced, so pay by cheque or preferably credit card if possible as this can give some added security if there is a problem.

4) If the item's existing price does not equate to its market value, be suspicious

5) Try to establish the source of the goods to ensure they are free of any legal claim and that the person is authorised to sell the object.

6) FOR SELLERS: If concerned about an object being offered for sale, refuse to buy, sell or value it. It is advisable to retain documentary evidence of transactions and their surrounding circumstances for as long as possible. This information may aid you in establishing a legal defence, not only in criminal matters but also actions brought for breach of contract.

Finally, if in doubt, DON'T; if you already have, contact your local Trading Standards Officer.

Charles Miles-Reed, West Sussex Trading Standards.

EXHIBITIONS

TOWARDS A SINGLE CURRENCY, National Museum and Gallery, Cardiff 16 January to 6 April 1999.

This good exhibition strikes a topical note and when I visited it one wet Friday afternoon, it was deservedly busy. Monetary union evokes different responses, and exhibitions can adopt different approaches to it. This display, which has been mounted in conjunction with the Royal Mint, combines a thematic approach to the history of monetary integration with a special feature on the designs submitted by British artists for the new euro coins, due to be introduced in 2002.

Different sections look both at the use of foreign coins in Britain and, in particular, examples of successful single currencies. Special emphasis is placed on the Roman empire as a precursor of European monetary union (a controversial point for some!) with an attractive display of the recent local hoard from Bridgend, dating to about AD 310; and on the British empire of the 19th century with the Llanafan hoard of gold sovereigns and examples of colonial currency.

The display of euro designs by British artists is specially interesting. As well as works by Ron Dutton and John Mills, we have the runner's-up designs by Mary Milner Dickens. What a pity her designs were not selected! Although I have to confess I found the 'Spaghetti junction' design a bit alarming (if very bold!), her designs incorporating plants and animals were very attractive, and would have been a credit to the new coinage.

The exhibition is accompanied by a series of lectures, a competition and a 'Saxon coin interactive event', our friend Grunal the Moneyer, as popular as ever. The whole project is well thought out and attractively presented, and well deserves the success it is enjoying.

Andrew Burnett

LEADEN HEARTS

An exhibition of convict and other love tokens at the British Museum

Most engraved love tokens made by defacing coins defy any further research. They rarely give a location; mostly just names, or more often initials, dates of birth or death and a simple, sentimental decoration of hearts and flowers, engraved or stippled. However, certain love tokens shown in this exhibition are exceptions to this

rule as they are united by the criminality of the people who made or commissioned these keepsakes for their loved ones, while waiting in the prison hulks before transportation to Australia.

The clues come from mention of a criminal sentence, travel to a far country, or a transportation ship. Once this historical link was made, the style of engraving and rhymes like "When this you see remember me..." enabled Timothy Millett, whose transportation collection forms the basis of the exhibition, to link some fairly anonymous love tokens to real thieves, Luddites, forgers and other criminal types. This research is remarkable to say the least.

The display in the British Museum's small gallery for temporary numismatic exhibitions starts with a rather arresting sight of some hefty neck irons which immediately sets a sombre tone. The "leaden hearts" are introduced by a group of material from the Coram Foundling Hospital, situated close by the museum, where rather poignantly engraved tokens were left with the abandoned new-born babies by their mothers. The theme continues with other types of love tokens, showing their customary sentimental symbolism and naïve pictorial representations, and how this popular art is adapted in many transportation linked pieces. A gory section deals with the use of tattoos and links with the token. Finally there are sections on the prisons, especially Newgate, the types of crimes for which people were imprisoned or transported, and how the tokens were made by defacing Cartwheel pennies.

The difficulty of displaying these love tokens cannot be over-emphasised. There is scarcely any relief or contrast on these darkly patinated, engraved and often worn copper discs. At the top of the cases there was enough light to see the pieces quite clearly but the bottom row was really hard to see. Maybe having the captions at the bottom of each case rather than at the side would be a solution. Also it would have been helpful to have enlarged photos or line drawings for each of the tokens, such as those from the excellent book *Convict Love Tokens* by Michele Field and Timothy Millett which accompanies the exhibition.

In conclusion this is an excellent array of really rare material that has been, and certainly will continue to be researched, giving an insight and a tangible link to the wretched lives of late 18th. century and early 19th. century transported criminals and those they loved and left behind forever.

Howard Simmons

OBITUARIES

Charles Hersh (1923-1999)

Charles Hersh had been a figure in British numismatic life for over half a century, paying his first visits to Spinks and Baldwins in 1944, when he was a 20 year old US airman posted to England. In 1950 he began a period of several years in London, working in the coin department of the British Museum, completing, for instance, the posthumous editing of Sydenham's *Coinage of the Roman Republic* (1952). Since then he enjoyed a formidable reputation for Roman Republican, and later, Macedonian numismatics, and, despite his return to a career in the USA, he remained a regular and welcome visitor to Britain. In 1998 he was honoured with the presentation at

the British Museum of a volume of essays in his honour, where a list of his own considerable publications can be found. His jovial manner and enthusiasm for life will be missed by all who knew him.

Andrew Burnett

D J de Sola Rogers (1946-1999)

David John de Sola Rogers was born in Blackhill, County Durham, the youngest of three children. His father was a well-known pathologist. His uncle was Claude Rogers, the painter. Michael J Freeman is a distant cousin.

After his early education at Oundle, he read medicine at Birmingham. Having qualified as a doctor, he tried various specialities before taking a job on St Helena, where he was obliged to turn his hand to anaesthetics. On returning to the UK he gained his Fellowship and eventually the status of consultant anaesthetist. A great uncle died leaving him enough money to be independent, so when he began to suffer ill-health he left medicine and became a numismatist.

His first publication was *Toy Coins*, for which future generations will be much the wiser. At the time of his death he was preparing a supplement to it. He wrote widely on several numismatic subjects, characteristically choosing fields that no-one had previously looked at in depth. His opinions were sometimes in contravention of current accepted thinking. Some subjects, including the medieval tumbrel balance, he made his own. His recent article on these, although not lengthy, specifies what there is known about them, much of which he himself had discovered.

His energy was tremendous and he slept little. He had incredible patience and, before his stroke, a good memory. To those interested only in pretty coins his collections - cut coins, early lead and pewter tokens, jetons, coin-weights etc. - could appear as so much junk, but David, a true numismatist, was not concerned with the price of a piece so much as its intellectual value. He made significant collections of hammered halfpennies and farthings and almost everything par anumismatic.

He was a mild, unassuming, shy and courteous gentleman; an *Archers* fan, a lover of Mozart and Mahler, a connoisseur of fine wine and single malt whiskey, and a gourmet. He played a passable game of bridge and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the science fiction genre.

Most numismatists do not publish young, but David was close to that point when the fruits of a lifetime's research were ready to be harvested. He was working on several projects - but was unwilling to finish until things were complete - and there was always something new turning up: his latest find was an unpublished heavy issue farthing of Edward IV. Fortunately we have his notes, so some of his work will see the light of day posthumously.

He is survived by his father and stepmother, two sisters and many nephews and nieces.

Paul Withers

NEWS

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The Society is pleased to report that five new Honorary Fellows have been elected: Basil Demetriadi, Tony Merson, Leo Mildenberg, A. Stazio and Hyla Troxell.

The Lhotka Memorial Prize has been awarded to *America's Money, America's Story* by Richard G. Doty.

The Samir Shamma Prize for Islamic numismatics was awarded to *Umayyad Coinage of Bilad al-Sham*, by Nayef G. Goussos.

Peter Guest has received a research grant to support his work on the Dichin/Nicopolis excavations in Bulgaria.

TREASURE ACT NEWS: A HOARD OF ROMAN COINS FROM MONMOUTHSHIRE

On 10 December 1998, a hoard of 3,778 Roman coins of the late third century AD, found in September 1998 by a metal-detectorist, was declared Treasure under the terms of the Treasure Act 1996. The coins were found in the Rogiet area, a few miles from Caerwent, the *civitas* capital of the Silures.

This new hoard is most unusual in comprising predominantly the 'reformed' issues of Aurelian (270-5) and subsequent rulers, with few of the most debased issues which normally make up the bulk of Romano-British 'radiate' hoards (Tetricus I is not represented; Gallienus, Claudius and Victorinus in small numbers). There are over 300 coins of Aurelian, 600 of Tacitus (275-6) and 1,300 of Probus (276-82), as well as smaller numbers of Carus and family (282-5) and of Diocletian and Maximian (284-305); the western mint of Lyon predominates. Only one significant parallel is recorded from Britain: the Gloucester (1960) find, which comprised over 15,000 coins. Both contain only very small numbers of the radiates of Carausius (287-93) and Allectus (293-5). Conscious exclusion of these two 'British' usurpers is a feature of an emerging group of hoards from the 290s, termed 'legitimist', which have a fairly restricted distribution in south and west England. However, the new deposit also contains nearly 750 Q-radiates ('quinarii') of Allectus, a category of coinage rarely found in hoards. His coins are the latest in the hoard, which places its deposition in the years shortly after AD 293.

This is the first important find of base-metal coins to be declared treasure under the new Act and is to be acquired by the National Museums & Galleries of Wales.

Edward Besly

PILOT SCHEMES FOR RECORDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

As a complement to the Treasure Act (see issue 20 of CCNB Newsletter), the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, together with the British Museum, have been funding six pilot schemes to promote the voluntary recording of all archaeological objects found by members of the public, including coins. The liaison officers, based in Kent, Norfolk, North Lincolnshire, the West Midlands, Yorkshire and the North West, have rapidly succeeded in gaining the trust of hundreds of detector users and between them they have recorded some 11,500 objects, including about 5,000 coins. It seems that the previous estimate that detector users might have been finding perhaps as many as 400,000 archaeological objects each year is, if anything, too low.

A database has been specially developed for the scheme and the first 3,000 records will be made available on a Website to be launched by the Arts Minister, Alan Howarth, at the British Museum on 24 March. An annual report will be published at the same time (copies may be obtained from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, tel. 0171 211 6200).

The Heritage Lottery Fund is funding another six finds liaison posts for 18 months in Hampshire, Northamptonshire, Somerset and Dorset, Suffolk and Wales, as well as an outreach officer, who started between January and March this year. The Museums & Galleries Commission will be making a second bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a national scheme when the pilots end in April 2000. This might require a network of some thirty finds liaison officers, together with a small central support team. It is too early to say whether or not this bid will be successful but, whatever the outcome, the pilot schemes will certainly have shown the enormous potential addition to our knowledge of coin circulation that detector finds can bring.

Roger Bland

THE INC WEBSITE

The International Numismatic Commission (INC) has established its website, hosted by the American Numismatic Society.

At the moment the website contains information about the INC and its work (including how to apply for its annual scholarship). Details are also given about its members (apart from distinguished individuals who are honorary members, the members are all institutions), including their contact details and there is also a list of other Internet contact addresses.

Several articles which have previously been published by the INC in its *Compte-rendu* are also made available. There are three main categories:

- (1) histories of collections (e.g. ANS, Leiden);
- (2) obituaries of honorary fellows (Colin Martin, Anne Robertson, Tony Hackens, Robert Göbl; and
- (3) discussions of the laws of antiquities in several countries (Belgium, England/Wales, Scotland, Israel).

There are plans to increase the amount of information available, and the website includes an invitation to anyone to send in useful information to its architects - William Metcalf and Kenneth Jonsson.

The address is <http://www.amnumsoc2.org/inc>

NUMISMATIC WEBSITES

An issue of the CCNB on computers and numismatics is planned for the near future. The editors would be interested to hear of any websites of numismatic interest to include in a general listing, and would also welcome offers of articles on suitable topics.

GRUNAL THE SAXON MONEYS VISITS DEVON PRIMARY SCHOOL

In October 1998 the children of Two Moors Primary School in Tiverton, Devon, were treated to a full day's visit by Grunal Moneta (aka Dave Greenhalgh) as part of an ongoing project concerning Invaders and Settlers. Dressed in authentic Saxon costume and equipped with a full complement of items necessary for the function of a mint, Grunal explained to children how and why coins were made during the Saxon era. Each child was able to strike his or her own coin between dies especially prepared for the day. These were cut by Grunal following a competition undertaken by the children to design a 'Saxon' coin incorporating the school's name and year of minting. Two designs were chosen by Grunal, one for each side of the coin, and the winners received special silver coins as well as genuine Roman ones to keep. The day was a great success and will hopefully engender a

lasting interest in coins in some of the children, as well as a better understanding of the Anglo-Saxons and their way of life.

Graham Bennett

Anyone interested in booking Grunral for an exhibition should contact him on 01536 391066.

HIRAYAMA TRAINEE CURATORS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

As part of a scheme funded by the Hirayama Institute for Silk Road Studies, in Kamakura, Japan, the Museum invites young numismatists from abroad to study its Central Asian coin collection and to learn about modern numismatic method and museum practice. This year the Museum is hosting two Hirayama Trainee curators: Miss Sutapa Sinha, a fellow of the Centre for Archaeological studies and Training, Eastern India, Calcutta, and Mrs. Christine Fröhlich-Wiley, a research student working on coin collections in the Bibliothèque Nationale and the Musée Guimet, Paris.

Sutapa Sinha is a specialist in the coinages of the Sultanate of Bengal, and is studying the coinages of Northern India in the pre-Islamic period to broaden her understanding of the context of Sultanate Coinage. She will be in the Museum until July. Christine Fröhlich-Wiley is specialising in the coinages of the Indo-Scythian and Indo-Parthian rulers of ancient Pakistan, and will be with us until May.

NUMISMATICS IN THE MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND

The long-running and sometimes controversial Museum of Scotland project finally reached fruition on 30th November 1998, when the building was opened by H.M. The Queen. The museum is devoted to the history of Scotland from the remotest geological past to the present day, and its creation has provided an opportunity for much Scottish and Scottish-related numismatic material to be displayed. A decision was taken at an early stage of planning that there should be no specialist typological gallery devoted to any category of artefact, but coins and other numismatic items have been included in a great many of the museum's thematic displays.

The basement galleries contain exhibitions of material dating from before AD 1100, and these include many Roman and Anglo-Saxon period coins, as well as a small number of Celtic pieces, used to illustrate contacts between Scotland and other areas, the supply system in the Roman and Viking periods, Roman imperialism and the spread of literacy, as well as more obvious concepts such as the accumulation of wealth and its concealment. The well-known Falkirk hoard of silver denarii is displayed as an example of the transfer of wealth from the Romans to allied peoples, and other hoards which can be seen include those of late Roman bronze coins from Balgreggan and Covesea and of Anglo-Saxon period silver from Iona, Skaill and Talnotrie.

On the ground floor is "The Kingdom of the Scots", an exhibition which covers the period from AD 1100 to 1707. Coins and medals are included in many of the displays, in particular those relating to the power of the monarchy, the creation and function of the burghs, and the effect on Scotland and the Renaissance. There are cases which deal specifically with the development of the Scottish coinage and the use of coins from other countries in Scotland's currency. Hoards which can be

seen include those from Dumfries (Edwardian and contemporary pennies), Bridge of Don (groats of the 14th and 15th centuries) and Wooden Farm, Kelso (Civil War period).

Coins, banknotes, trade tokens and, in particular, medals also appear in the exhibitions on the upper floors of the museum, which are concerned with the history of Scotland after the Act of Union of 1707. Academic, agricultural and sporting medals are on show as well as historical issues commemorating events and people.

Although there is no 'coin gallery' as such, the interests of the numismatic enthusiast have certainly not been neglected in the Museum of Scotland, and it is hoped that visitors will leave with the impression that there is more to coins than their simple function as money.

Nicholas Holmes

LECTURES, SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA AND CONFERENCES

BNS SPECIAL MEETING: *West Country Numismatics*

The BNS annual one-day Special Meeting takes place this year on Saturday 3rd July, in the late-medieval Old Municipal Buildings at Taunton, Somerset. There is a full programme of events on West Country topics by Professor Michael Metcalf, Edward Besly, Paul Robinson, Stephen Minnitt and Graham Dyer. To register and for full details, please send a cheque for £12.50 payable to The British Numismatic Society to Edward Besly, c/o Dept of Archaeology & Numismatics, National Museum & Gallery of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP.

18TH ANNUAL TOKEN CONGRESS

The 1999 Token Congress will take place at the Cumbrian College of Art and Design in Carlisle, from 3-5 September. For information, contact Charles Farthing, 01329 284 661.

BANS AUTUMN WEEKEND

This will take place from 17-19th September, at Hertford College, Oxford. Speakers include Professor M. Metcalf, Professor T. V. Buttrey, David Sellwood and Christopher Comber. The all-inclusive residential cost is £118 (deposit of £25 required when booking). For information, or to book, contact Joe Bispham, 103 Ferry Road, Hullbridge, Essex, SS5 6EL, tel. 01702 230 950. The Royal Numismatic Society may be able to help with costs for young people wishing to attend. Please make enquiries to Joe Bispham at the above address.

RNS-BM SYMPOSIUM

Counterfeiting: Ancient and Modern : 14-15th September 2000

This joint RNS-BM symposium is organised through the Scientific Research Committee of the RNS and will be held in London at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Picadilly. The theme of the meeting will be counterfeiting in its broadest sense and it is anticipated that this will cover all aspects of the technology and scientific investigation of the manufacture and context of unofficial currency issues. This would include, for example, plated and cast coin forgeries, false dies, semi-official copies (e.g. Roman issues from eastern Europe), banknotes, forgers' workshops, materials associated with forgery production, experimental replication of processes, examples of anti-forgery practice and novel techniques of forgery examination and detection. It is expected that the proceedings will be published by the RNS in its series "Metallurgy in Numismatics", and MIN5.

Further details can be obtained from:

Mike Cowell, Department of Scientific Research, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG, tel: 0171 323 8277 / fax: 0171 323 8276 / e-mail m.cowell@british-museum.ac.uk

- April
20 RNS *Sir John Evans and English numismatics*
Hugh Pagan
27 BNS *The numismatic designs of Eric Gill*
Joe Cribb
- May
18 RNS *Usurpers and rebels in the Roman Empire*
Clive Cheesman
25 BNS *The Mint of Huntingdon*
Robin Eaglen
- The Council Sherry Party will be held immediately after the meeting, and all members and their guests are cordially invited to attend.
- June
15 RNS Annual General Meeting and Presidential
Address: *Viking Age Numismatics 5: Denmark and the end of the Viking Age* Michael Metcalf
22 BNS *Engravers and engraving at the Royal Mint in later Stuart England* Christopher Challis
- July
3 BNS *West Country Numismatics* - special one-day meeting at the Municipal Hall, Taunton, Somerset

Contacts:

British Art Medal Society (BAMS)

Philip Attwood, 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 E17 5QP, tel. 0181-523 6531

British Numismatic Society (BNS)

Charles Farthing: correspondence: c/o Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB; tel. 01329 284 661. Unless otherwise stated all meetings held at 6.00pm at the Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1.

British Numismatic Trade Association (BNTA)

Mrs Carol Carter, General Secretary, PO Box 474A, Thames Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0WJ. Tel: 0181-398-4290; fax: 0181-398-4291

Oriental Numismatic Society (ONS)

Mr Peter Smith, 9 Grandison Road, London SW11 6LS, tel. 0171 228 2826

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

The Appledore hoard of 490 late Anglo-Saxon coins is now on display in the HSBC Money Gallery at the British Museum, until further notice.

Michael O'Bee's collection of 203 Corieltauvian coins, one of the largest in the country, will be on display at the Usher Gallery, Lincoln, until September 1999.

Paper Promises: the History of Scottish Banknotes

Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow

3 March - 17 April 1999 (possibly to be extended)

Rebels, Pretenders and Impostors: Political Fictions on Coins and Banknotes

Gallery 69a, British Museum. 13 April - 10 October 1999

The Sterling Pound

Bank of England Museum, Bartholomew Lane, London EC2

7 June - 27 October 1999

BAMS Student Medal Project

Simmons Gallery, 53 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WCI

10 - 23 June 1999

AUCTIONS AND FAIRS

- April
14 *Auction of Ancient, English and World Coins and Historical Medals.* Glendining's

- 17 *Coin Fair*
The Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8. 9.30 a.m.-3 p.m., admission £1
Enquiries: Davidson Monk Fairs, tel: 0181 656 4583 or 0181 651 3890
- 20 *World Banknotes Auction.* Spink's
- 22-3 *Sale of Ancient British, Anglo-Saxon and English Hammered Coins (Stack Collection).* Sotheby's
- 27 *Auction of Orders, Decorations, Campaign Medals and Militaria.* Spink's
- May
4-5 *Auction of Ancient, British and World Coins, Commemorative Medals and Banknotes (including the A L T McCammon Collection of Channel Islands Coins, Tokens and Paper Money).* Baldwin's
- 11 *Sale of War Medals, Orders and Decorations, including the Foerster Collection of Russian Orders.* Sotheby's
- 13 *Auction of Ancient, Foreign and US Coins and Banknotes* Spink's - New York (contact Spink's for details)
- 15 *Coin Fair*
Commonwealth Institute - details as April 17th
- 25 *Auction of Important Islamic Coins from the Turath Collection.* Spink's
- 27-8 *Coins, Medals and Banknotes Auction.* Sotheby's
- 29-30 *Irish International Collectables Fair (banknotes, coins, military medals etc.)*
Newman House, 85 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland. Contact: Peter Sheen Tel/fax (00-353-1) 6708295
- 30 *Auction of Coins, Banknotes, Tokens, Military Medals etc.* James Adam Salerooms, St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 Ireland Tel: (00-353-1) 6760261
- June
5 *Auction of Ancient, Modern and Medieval Coins (Sale 15 - consignments by 31 March)* Italo Vecchi
- 6 *The London Coin Fair*
Carlisle Suite, Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1. Contact Howard or Frances Simmons
Tel: 0171 831 2080 fax: 0171 831 2090
- 16 *Coins and Medals Sale.* Bonham's
- 18 *Croydon Coin Auction*
South Park Hotel, South Park Hill Road, Croydon
Enquiries tel: 0181 240 7924
- 19 *Coin Fair.*
Commonwealth Institute - details as April 17th
- 20 *Auction of Coins, Banknotes and Stamps*
Spink's - Singapore (contact Spink's for details)
- 23 *Auction of US and Foreign Coins and Banknotes*
Spink's - New York (contact Spink's for details)
- 30 *Auction of Ancient, English and World Coins, Historical Medals and Tokens.* Glendining's
- July
7 *Auction of Orders, Decorations and Medals.* Glendining's
- 13 *Auction of Ancient, English and Foreign Coins, and Commemorative Medals.* Spink's
- 13 *Croydon Coin Auction*
South Park Hotel, South Park Hill Road, Croydon
Enquiries tel: 0181 240 7924
- 17 *Coin Fair*
Commonwealth Institute - details as April 17th
- August
21 *Coin Fair*
Commonwealth Institute - details as April 17th
- 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 9LGChristie's/Spink & Son: 5-7 King St, London SW1Y 6QS Tel: 0171 930 7888
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.