

MONEY & MEDALS

The Newsletter for Numismatics in Britain

87 | Winter 2023/24

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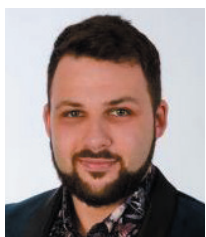
Money & Medals is the newsletter associated with the Money and Medals Network based at the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Warwick and in association with the RNS, BNS, and a number of key partners. The Network aims to act as an information

exchange for museum professionals within the UK whose collections include coins, medals and other objects relating to monetary and economic history and numismatics.

To contact the Network, contribute information or articles to the Newsletter, or to subscribe to the mailing list please send your name and email address to MMN@warwick.ac.uk. Auction and fair details for inclusion in the next edition should be sent to Peter Preston-Morley at ppm@noonans.co.uk



NEWS



2023 Roundup and Looking Ahead

Campbell Orchard

Since moving to the Warwick Department of Classics and Ancient History in late 2022, the Money & Medals Network (MMN) has been working hard to bring back free numismatic training options to professionals and volunteers working within the museum sector, and coin enthusiasts.

2023 saw the return of in-person training days: the MMN Training Day on June 15th and the Medals Masterclass at the National Army Museum on October 9th. These training days are a fantastic opportunity for networking within the sector, as well as for connecting and learning from experts in the field of numismatics. The MMN Training Day on June 15th was hosted with the Warwick Numismatics Day and the first in-person training day offered since 2019. By planning in conjunction with the Warwick Numismatics Day on imitative issues, the MMN was able to invite Clive Stannard (Brussels and Warwick), a renowned scholar in the field to be involved in the workshop and present a keynote to our members.

The event provided attendees with a unique opportunity to enhance their skills in coin identification, expertise currently underrepresented in the sector due to the move towards more general curation. Experts, including Prof. Suzanne Frey-

Kupper and Prof. Kevin Butcher (both Warwick), Clive Stannard and Dr Andrew Brown (London), guided participants through hands-on activities, imparting practical skills in coin identification and cataloguing. Andrew Brown's talk on the Portable Antiquities Scheme highlighted its significance and impact, particularly within the field of ancient numismatics.



It emphasized the Scheme's mission to promote the reporting and preservation of portable antiquities. A key highlight of the Training Day was the roundtable discussion led by Campbell Orchard, fostering an open exchange of ideas among all attendees. The discussion primarily revolved around how the network could best support museums in the United Kingdom with their numismatic collections in the future. The day

concluded with a captivating talk by Clive Stannard titled 'Dies, transfer dies, punches, and hubs', delving into the production process of coins over all periods.

The second training day, hosted in October by the National Army Museum (NAM) in London, focused on military medals. Highlights from the day included the talk by Belinda Day (curator at the NAM), who provided an excellent general overview of military medals; Michael Naxton's masterclass on the Victoria Cross; John Millensted's talk on medal valuations; and finally, the presentation by Leanne Manfredi and Deborah Wade-France about the V&A Purchase Grant Fund. Please read Lewis Monkley's article for further details about the day. Thanks again to the wonderful folks at NAM for putting on such a spectacular day.

Three more training days are currently planned for 2024. Our next training day focusing on Tokens will be hosted by the Hunterian in Glasgow on April 18th by its curator Jesper Ericsson, so keep an eye out for when registration opens. For those who cannot make it to Glasgow, a video keynote by Dr Clare Rowan (Warwick) discussing token currency will also be made available. More on other future training days will be announced closer to the time.

Review: Medals Masterclass

Lewis Monkley, Northampton Museum & Art Gallery

The Medals training day kindly hosted by the Money and Medals Network and the National Army Museum was another fantastic opportunity to learn more about Numismatics. I had previously attended a very helpful training day earlier in the year centred around coin identification, and had also attended training sessions at the National Army Museum previously, so it was great to see both organisations working in partnership.

The day included a series of talks by some excellent speakers and experts in their fields covering a wide range of topics relating to military medals and

their place in museum collections. It began with introductions from Julian Farrance from NAM and Campbell Orchard from the Money and Medals Network. This was followed by a great talk from Belinda Day detailing a general overview of military medals from their earliest iterations up to the present day. After a short break we were treated to an in-depth history of the Victoria Cross by the foremost expert Michael Naxton, former curator of the Lord Ashcroft Collection and the IWM. This was of particular interest as I learnt a number of details that will help advance the understanding of the VCs in my own museum's collection.

After lunch we returned for more talks, starting with



MMN TRAINING DAY

TOKENS

18 APRIL 2024

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THE
HUNTERIAN

WARWICK
UNIVERSITY

John Millensted, a veteran of the auction industry and a consultant for Spink. This talk went over valuations, something we don't normally practice in museums, but it was helpful to see what qualities collectors deem valuable and what small details can drastically change a valuation of a set of medals. The day concluded with an overview of the Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant Fund by Leanne Manfredi and Deborah Wade-France. Whilst I had heard of the grant, this talk provided a lot more detail particularly in how to apply and what they look for in an application. I'm sure this will be beneficial down the line as we always have items we wish to acquire but unfortunately lack the budget.

Overall, it was a very informative day and I'm sure some of the knowledge I gained will be put to good use. I hope to see more collaboration from the Money and Medals Network and the National Army Museum in the future and will keep an eye out for anymore upcoming training days.

NEW! MMN Online lunchtime talks

In-person training is not all that the MMN will be offering this year. We have heard the feedback and will be adding regular online talks to our offering. Each talk will present a different element of numismatics, from the basics to the more advanced. Each session will delve into a distinctive facet of numismatics, ranging from fundamental principles to advanced topics. Expect engaging talks lasting 30-40 minutes, with a dedicated Q&A session at the conclusion, allowing our audience to participate actively. These talks will be recorded, forming a valuable resource for MMN members keen on expanding their knowledge of various numismatic subjects. Our debut talk will be on January 17th at 12:30 pm. Please visit the MMN website for further details.

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ONLINE
17 January 2024



COIN TALK
NUMISMATICS 101

12:30 - 13:30

Token Congress 2024

Preparations are already well under way for the 2024 Token Congress. This year's event will take place on 4-6 October 2024 at the Hilton Hotel, Northampton. This annual gathering of like-minded token collectors and researchers will follow the well-established format. Following the meet-and-greet on the Friday

afternoon, there is a packed programme of events, talks, book launches, research queries, an auction, and a bourse with typically 15 tables of paranumismatica. The meal and coffee breaks are abuzz with typically 100 delegates talking to old friends and meeting new token collectors. The Congress ends at Sunday lunch with many delegates already looking forward to the next year. The all-inclusive cost is £220 with further details available from the Congress website <https://thetokensociety.org.uk/token-congress/> or directly from this year's organizer Tim Everson – tim.everson@btinternet.com



Photo of the lecture theatre at the 2023 Congress.

Changes at the British Museum

The Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum has undergone a reorganisation. From January 2024 the department will be known as the Department of Money and Medals. For more information please contact the Keeper Tom Hockenhull thockenhull@britishmuseum.org.

Adopt a coin! Help display the Muddy Hoard

The Norris Museum in St Ives, Cambs. is excited to announce the unveiling of The Muddy Hoard – a Roman hoard of 9.2k coins. It is the most significant acquisition The Norris Museum has ever secured. The exhibition is just the beginning of the hoard's long journey to becoming part of our permanent displays. To do this, we must fundraise for new exhibit design and display cases. You can help us with this! We have a fantastic programme of events planned for the duration of the exhibition, so please come along and support us – all profits will go towards the new permanent display. You can officially 'Adopt a Coin' from this hoard by registering your interest via the form on our website <https://www.norrismuseum.org.uk/>. If you are interested in adopting one of the rarer coins, or even the unique denarius, please contact us directly at info@norrismuseum.org.uk

FOCUS

COIN DESIGN

With the imminent release of a new range of designs for the UK coinage Chris Barker of the Royal Mint Museum discusses and illustrates the coins that inspired the new UK issues.



The new definitive reverses for the UK coinage

Chris Barker, Royal Mint Museum

Throughout history, coin designers and artists have been drawn towards heraldic devices in relation to Britain's coinage. Rather than naturalistic forms, which have only briefly been explored, Shields and Arms have often been the chosen symbols used to represent the nation. For centuries, despite being interspersed with the occasional heraldic animal or sprig of greenery, Western coinage design has followed a rather formulaic, heraldic route, but it has not always been this way.

Ancient coin designers captured the natural world in all its glory, and it was the Greek city states that perhaps did it best. Whether they featured symbols of the gods, such as the owl associated with Athena, a goddess of war, handicraft and practical reason, or native animals of a region, as displayed on the coins of Eretria or Akragas, these vivid and beautifully executed works of art are instantly recognisable. Such forms, and the skill necessary to execute them, largely disappeared from the canon of coinage design after the end of the Roman era, and it was not until the Irish Free State coinage in the 1920s that the same spirit of these early Greek pieces was recaptured (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Athenian silver tetradrachm

Needing an expression of the new state's identity on its coinage, it was towards Ireland's well-established agriculture sector and its proud history of animal husbandry that the recently established Irish Coinage Committee turned for inspiration. Led by the famed poet W. B. Yeats, the Committee had to choose a set of designs from the 66 submitted by the seven artists invited to take part. Percy Metcalfe's distinctive series of stylised animals were a firm favourite amongst the judges, who felt his work far exceeded the decorative quality of the other pieces. As Yeats himself put it, 'What better symbols could we find for this horse-riding, salmon-fishing, cattle-raising country?' (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Irish Free State coinage

Receiving enthusiastic praise from the British press, the designs were described as 'the most beautiful coinage in the modern world' by the Manchester Guardian and, following the death of George V, Britain was presented with an opportunity to follow in Ireland's footsteps regarding its coinage. Keen to design something more modern, there was a real desire to break free from the confines of heraldic tradition and embrace, in part, the flora and fauna of the nation. However, it would prove to be a tough brief, particularly when viewed through the narrow lens of royal animals. The swan, sturgeon and eagle all fell by the wayside, but one design that did stick was the delightful wren, which was the work of artist Harold Wilson Parker. Appearing on the farthing until the 1950s, when it ceased to be struck, the coin became a favourite with the British public and many still fondly remember using them (Figure 3).

Despite the ambitions of the time, the wren proved to be one of the few heraldic departures for the new coinage designs issued in 1937. Many of the pieces were the work of artist George Kruger Gray and were the perfect example of modern, heraldic coin design. Innovation in terms of the subject matter was few



Figure 3 . Harold Wilson Parker's designs for the United Kingdom coinage

and far between on British coinage in the decades that followed, but other countries embraced the use of native animals and flora. The distinctive and iconic appearance of some of these animals, such as caribou from Canada or the turtles found in the waters of Fiji, lent themselves to become part of strong, aesthetically pleasing designs that could instantly be associated with their country of origin (Figure 4).

modern aesthetic to the designs and impressing the judges with the way he was able to inject a sense of movement into his modelling of the animals. Devlin felt that the designs represented a more sophisticated and grown-up nation that distanced itself from the 'national advertising' of previous designs. Instead, he aimed for it to be a 'reflection' of Australia's 'cultural spirit' (Figure 5).



Figure 4. Fiji sixpence of 1953

Australia was one such country. Its rich, distinctive wildlife provided the perfect subject matter, and the country's decimalisation programme in 1966 presented the perfect opportunity to design a full suite of coin designs on the subject. Silversmith Stuart Devlin was Metcalfe's spiritual successor, adding a



Figure 5. Australia's decimal coins of 1966

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS & DISPLAYS

The Muddy Hoard

Norris Museum, St Ives, Cambs. | from September 2023

This significant temporary exhibition showcases the The Muddy Hoard – a Roman hoard, containing some 9.2k coins, across 15 Emperors, including a previously unrecorded denarius. The exhibition will run for at least 6 months, whilst we fundraise for its permanent display in our main gallery. The exhibition will evolve through its run, with live demonstrations of pottery reconstruction, talks about PAS, a celebration of archaeology, as well as ongoing conservation work, and research on the coins.

The new definitive designs created for coins of His Majesty King Charles III therefore continue a long tradition that stretches back all the way to ancient Greece. A watershed moment for British coinage, these new designs, more or less for the first time, step away from the heraldry that has dominated for centuries. The timing of this could not be more apt, as coinage designs have often, in one way or another, represented the era in which they were made. For a king who has dedicated much of his life towards the conservation of the natural world, they represent a lifetime's work. Equally, in an era when nature and wildlife are increasingly under threat from climate change, they are a reminder of the beauty of the natural world and what is at stake should we fail to protect it.



Crowned, The Making of a Monarch

Royal Mint Experience | from 6 May 2023

A Coronation is a time for public celebration, symbolising the transition from one reign to the next and this immersive exhibition explores the rich history of the Coronation ceremony. It also tells the wider story of what happens at The Royal Mint, and elsewhere, when there is a change of reign. From a new portrait on coins and stamps, to new words in the National Anthem, a change of reign is deeply woven into the fabric of our society today. Featuring a range of objects from The Royal Mint Museum's collection, hands-on interactives and a very special photo opportunity, this exhibition provides visitors with the opportunity to discover more about this turning point in the history of the United Kingdom.

Slavery and the Bank

Bank of England Museum | until February 2024

This exhibition explores the history of transatlantic slavery through its connections with the Bank of England and the wider City of London. For over 300 years, the slave trade tore more than 12 million African people from their homes and families. In this exhibition, we reflect on how the wealth created through transatlantic slavery shaped the development of Britain.

Money in Renaissance Germany

Ashmolean Museum | until 10 November 2024

This new display explores the creation of a common currency across the Holy Roman Empire in 1559. It was the first European currency whose units were clearly and consistently marked with their face values in Arab numerals. While the fronts of the coins were harmonised, the backs retained some forms of local reference, which was in some cases quite playfully medieval.

Global Gold

Fitzwilliam Museum | Room 17

Rare, beautiful and easy to work, gold has been valued above all other metals in many societies over the last six thousand years. This display provides global perspectives on the use of gold for currency and coins, from late 6th century BC to the 20th century. The sources and trading networks of the raw material reflects colonialism and exploitation, technological change and the discovery of new sources.

LECTURES, SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

Please refer to society websites for further details

January

- 17 MMN Campbell Orchard. *Numismatics 101* online
- 22 BNS Martin Jennings, *From statues to coins; making public sculpture*

February

- 12 BAMS David Snoo Wilson, *My 'Birch Eyes and Moonshine' medal and other work*
- 14 MMM Suzanne Frey-Kupper. *Numismatics 101* online *The invention of Greek coinage: evidence, context and use*
- 19 RNS Early Career Lectures [ZOOM]: Speakers TBC
- 26 BNS Members and Students; *An evening of ten-minute talks. Held at Swedenbourg Hall*
- 29 IBNS Ken Hutton, *North Korea and its banknotes*

March

- 11 BAMS Ann-Marie Carey, *You do know about the French medals in the vault?': Rediscovering Edward Thomason's medal collection*
- 18 RNS Rory Naismith, *Making Money in the Early Middle Ages*
- 20 MMN Richard Kelleher. *Numismatics 101 - Late* online *Medieval coinage in England*
- 25 BNS Eleanor Stinson, *The continental coinage of Henry Plantagenet, Duke of Normandy, Duke of Aquitaine, count of Anjou and King of England*

April

- 12 IBNS *IBNS London Banknote Forum*, to be held at the Sylvia Young Theatre School, 1 Nutford Place, London W1H 5YZ. This comprises a full day of six talks by leading paper money researchers and writers. Refreshments will be available and pre-registration will be essential. Full details of the programme and registration will be available in due course.
- 15 RNS Wendy Scott, *The Lenborough Hoard Project*
- 18 MMN *Tokens Training Day at the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow*
- 22 BNS Richard Henry, *Roman coinage in 4th century Britain*
- 26-28 *BAMS Annual Weekend Conference*
To be held in Pribor, Czech Republic

AUCTION DIARY

Courtesy of Peter Preston-Morley. Please note: Dates may be subject to alteration. For latest updates, please contact the individual companies listed below.

January

- 18 Spink. Ray Collection of Paper Money, Part II. 69 Southampton Row, London WC1. spink.com
- 24 Noonans. Kirton Collection of Coins. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk
- 24 Noonans. Tankersley Collection of Coins. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk
- 26 Spink. Coins. 69 Southampton Row, London WC1. spink.com
- 29 Spink. Paper Money. 69 Southampton Row, London WC1. spink.com

February

- 3 St James Auctions. Coins and Medals. Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, London WC1. stjauctions.com
- 6-7 Noonans. Coins and Medals. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk
- 13 Baldwin. Coins and Medals. 399 Strand, London WC2. thestrand.com
- 14 Noonans. Orders, Decorations and Medals. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk
- 21 Noonans. Trade Tokens. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk
- 21 St James Auctions. Andersen Collection of Coins. 10 Charles II Street, London SW1. stjauctions.com
- 21 Sovereign Rarities. Coins and Medals. 17-19 Maddox Street, London W1. auctions.sovr.co.uk
- 29 Noonans. Paper Money. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk

March

- 6 Noonans. Silich Collection of Medals, Part I. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk
- 11 Noonans. Paper Money. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk
- 13 Noonans. Orders, Decorations and Medals. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk

April

- 4 Spink. Coins and Medals. 69 Southampton Row, London WC1. spink.com
- 10 Noonans. Orders, Decorations and Medals. 16 Bolton Street, London W1. noonans.co.uk

- 25 Spink. Orders, Decorations and Medals. 69 Southampton Row, London WC1. spink.com

Dealers contact details can be found on the British Numismatic Trade Association website at www.bnta.net or the dealers' own websites using the links above.



CONTACTS

British Art Medal Society (BAMS)

Janet Larkin. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings held at 5.30pm, Cutlers Hall, Warwick Lane, London EC4. Contact Us via our website: www.bams.org.uk

British Association of Numismatic Societies (BANS)

Bill Pugsley bill@pugsley.co

British Numismatic Society (BNS)

Peter Preston-Morley, Noonans, 16 Bolton St, Mayfair, London, W1J 8BQ, Telephone: 020 7016 1700. E-mail: secretary@britnumsoc.org. Unless otherwise stated (see lecture programme) all meetings are on Mondays at the Society of Antiquaries commencing at 6.15 pm. www.britnumsoc.org

British Numismatic Trade Association (BNTA)

Christel Swan, General Secretary, 3 Unwin Mansions, Queen's Club Gardens, London W14 9TH, Tel: 07799 662181, e-mail: secretary@bnta.net website: www.bnta.net

International Bank Note Society (IBNS)

Pam West, pam@britishnotes.co.uk. Website at www.theibns.org/joomla/index.php

Oriental Numismatic Society (ONS)

Helen Wang. Email: hwang@britishmuseum.org. ONS website at www.orientalnumismaticsociety.org/; and on Facebook www.facebook.com/OrientalNumismaticSociety?ref=hl

Royal Numismatic Society (RNS)

Andrew Brown. Email: abrown@britishmuseum.org. Please note that some meetings will take place on Zoom only, while others will be in-person. In-person meetings are held at the Society of Antiquaries of London (Burlington House, Piccadilly). E-mail: info@numismatics.org.uk; website: www.numismatics.org.uk

