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**NEWSLETTER**

**THE JOURNAL OF THE LONDON NUMISMATIC CLUB**

**HONORARY EDITOR**

**Peter A. Clayton**

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## **EDITORIAL**

Yet another successful year in the Club's 65 years' history has passed, but our membership remains low in numbers and also at meetings – our membership number (61) doesn't even match our years, when once it was over 100. Nowadays it seems that all focused societies or clubs attract smaller numbers – only local history, archaeological and gardening club societies seem to attract large numbers of members. One wonders about the future of the hobby. The Royal Mint boasts of an ever expanding number in its Young Collectors Club, but where are they – certainly not in the local numismatic societies, or attending at the British Association of Numismatic Societies (BANS) Annual Congress, or its weekend courses, despite financial incentives. Similarly, where there were once school numismatic societies, often founded and run by an enthusiastic history teacher, they no longer exist – teachers seem to have too much on their plate for extra-mural activities such as this.

We have a good venue at the Warburg Institute, and a continuing and very interesting lecture programme due to our Speaker Finder on the Committee, David Berry. This year's talks have ranged over tokens and drinking; London signs and tokens; the coins of Ecuador; and two talks that were closely linked were on the immense Frome hoard of Roman coins, and the second talk demonstrated how our understanding of Roman coins in Britain has been revolutionised by recording on the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Appropriately, the year ended in December with a talk on the Popes. An innovation was a Quiz meeting that gave a lot of enjoyment and interest to the few members that were present. Just as a tantaliser, the full quiz questions (and the answers) are printed here and if you also belong to another numismatic society, here's your chance to run them through the numismatic mill.

Many of the speakers come from our own members (this year, three out of our six talks) and, apart from our obvious Members' Own evening, we can even field 'first reserves' when disaster strikes, and several members also give talks to other numismatic societies.

The Editor's usual plea to receive accounts of their talks from speakers, preferably by email, has been very successful this year. However, would speakers please not endeavour to design their contribution just type the text straight. Often, with good intent, they put in paragraphs or other devices using new formats like Vista which it is not possible to change or edit without going back to the originator. This is simply a waste of time and effort. Often it is difficult enough to transform an illustrated lecture closely linked with illustrations into a readable account for those who were not present. Now that virtually all our members live outside London and travel home after a meeting, our attendance figures are very low relative to our overall membership numbers, and the talks published in our *Newsletter* are an important part of the Club's ethos.

Once again there is a welcome mixture of book reviews, as well as more particular coverage of useful publications in the Members' Own evening contribution.

*Peter A. Clayton, Honorary Editor.*

## **London Numismatic Club Meeting, 1 February 2011**

Gerry Buddle, The Club's Assistant Secretary, spoke on "Refreshing Change – Tokens and drinking". Gerry said:

Human life is defined by three basic needs: air, water and food. Up to now, nobody seems to have worked out a way to charge for breathing, and food has always needed to be grown, hunted, bought or bartered for. Drinking though, seems to fall somewhere between the two. Water represents the most basic form of supplying fluid to the body and in most instances can be obtained free or at a very nominal price. But since the dawn of time, humans have tended to regard water as a bit boring and frequently also as an unreliable liquid source so there has always been scope for the development of more interesting drinks. These have served many purposes, from simply making water more palatable (the medieval beers, ales and meads did this), through to offering extra nourishment (milks) and in many cases as stimulants (coffees, teas and alcohol).

Once you develop a product beyond basic water, you then have a saleable item and where you have a saleable item you need money. So in this presentation, I'd like to explore money as related specifically to drinking – in fact, to look at tokens directly connected with the provision, purchase, advertising and distribution of drinks.

The Romans certainly issued lead tesserae, though their uses are still somewhat obscure. Those with erotic scenes can certainly be linked to brothels – possibly as a sort of entrance token – but I do not know of any specifically linked to taverns although tesserae with devices such as flagons and glasses are known.

Perhaps the first examples of tokens that can really be connected to drinking are the so-called "wine tavern" tokens, dating from the 14/15th

century. At their simplest they are lead discs with a crude long cross in imitation of the regal coinage of the time, and Ted Fletcher has noted that cut examples exist, which suggests strongly that they tended to circulate as very small change alongside the normal silver coinage of the day. This makes perfect sense – in the 14th century beer was brewed at three strengths, the weakest costing a penny a gallon, the medium three-halfpence and the strongest two pence. Given that the smallest cut coin was a farthing, how otherwise would you buy a pint? Lead tokens also exist with devices such as a bottle, or a bottle and cup, and it seems extremely likely that these were intended specifically for use at inns.

Having said that, alcohol consumption in the high Middle Ages seems to have been considerable. In 1371, the garrison at Dover castle received five pints of wine per man as a daily ration and each nun at Syon received seven gallons of ale a week. Writing at the same period, William of Malmesbury notes:

- *Drinking in particular was a universal practice in which occupation the English passed entire nights as well as day ... they were accustomed to eat until they became surfeited and to drink until they were sick.*
- So maybe binge-drinking is not such a new phenomenon!

In Elizabethan times there was still a selection of beers available. These ranged from small ale through double beer, double-double-beer, dagger ale and bracket through to Huf cap, which seems to have been the Carlsberg Special of its day.

Although there are no Tudor tokens specifically connected to drinking, it seems very likely that they existed. In 1635 a book called *The Drunkard Opened* gives a number of terms that describe a drunk person and are well worth repeating:

- *He is foxt, he is flustered, he is subtle, cupshot, he hath seen the French king, he hath whipt the cat, he hath been at the scriveners, he is a bit of a barne-weasell ...*

But perhaps for us, the most interesting is, “He hath swallowed a tavern-token”. This was a good 15 years before the appearance of the 17th century tokens, so I think must point to the existence of earlier tavern tokens.

The first really firm connection between tokens and drinking comes with the advent of the 17th century tokens in the 1650s. For the first time we are treated to described locations and issuers. It is often difficult though, to clearly identify when tokens specifically relate to inns as buildings were not usually numbered at that period, but rather bore a name so, for example, I have a token from a location “The Golden Falcon” which turns out to be a house name, not an inn. Keeping this in mind, a brief and fairly unscientific survey of extant tokens from a number of important cities suggests that somewhere between about 5 and 20% were issued by inns, thereby underlining their importance in 17th century life.

To consider just some of the more prevalent signs: the RED LYON was once the commonest inn sign and has heraldic connections to John of Gaunt and Scotland. The FLYING HORSE was thought to be connected with the Knights Templar, whilst the CROSS KEYS refers to the keys of St Peter and the GRIFFIN was a common heraldic device.

At this point, I would like to talk a little more about inn signs. From very early times, publicans were compelled by law to have a sign. By an Act of Parliament in 1430-31 it was enacted:

- *Whoever shall brew ale in the town of Cambridge with intention of*

-

- *selling it must hang out a sign , otherwise he shall forfeit his ale.*

And the loss of a licence was always accompanied by the pulling down of the sign.

George Berry has written a splendid book about the tokens issued by inns mentioned by Pepys (*Taverns and Tokens of Pepys' London*, Seaby 1978), and these represent a good cross-section of the signs of the time. They include such diverse names as:

- **The 3 Tuns** – The arms of the Vintners and Brewers, dating from 1437 (whose Livery Company Hall stands at the north end of Southwark Bridge in Lower Thames Street).
- **The Mitre** – A reference to some connection to a bishop. This was one of the commonest inn signs and one of the most famous “Mitres” was in Oxford. This is celebrated in the *Adventures of Mr Verdant Green* (1853) with an old rhyme:

*From the top of the Royal Defiance*

*Jack Adams, who coaches so well,*

*Set me down in these regions of science*

**In front of the Mitre Hotel**

*Sure never man's prospects were brighter*

*I said as I jumped from my perch:*

*So quickly arrived at the Mitre*

*Oh, I'm sure to get on in the church!*

Pepys' “Mitre” was in Cheapside.

- **The Devil and St Dunstan** (Fleet Street) – Referring to the old story about St Dunstan catching the devil by the nose with a pair of tongs. (A plaque on the wall of Child & Co, Bankers, marks the site of Pepys' pub.)
- **The Salutation** – This was another term for the Annunciation of the



- Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin. At least one example of this being renamed the Soldier & Citizen, and St Catherine became the Cat & Wheel during the Puritan period. Many inns at this time bore names with religious references, so it is no accident that two pubs which claim to be amongst the oldest in the country both have names alluding to religious subjects – the Salutation, and the Trip to Jerusalem, both in Nottingham.
- **The Swan** – This had been the badge of both Edward III and Henry VIII.
- **The Mother Redcap** - This is thought to have been a general name for an alewife, and Pepys' pub, rebuilt, still stands on the Holloway Road, Islington.

We should also remember that there were some brewers who supplied more than one house. Similarly there were vintners who supplied wine. Although there are many tavern tokens, another beverage, coffee, was also becoming popular at this time.

Coffee, imported from the east, was a real novelty and very expensive. The 17th century witnessed the rise of coffee houses in Britain; the first was opened in 1652 by Thomas Hodges and Daniel Edwards in St Michael's Churchyard, Cornhill, and several hundred were opened by the end of the century in the more sophisticated towns. In London particularly, these rapidly acquired the status of gentlemen's clubs where business could be discussed and transacted and indeed Lloyds began as a coffee house.

Many of these coffee houses issued tokens, frequently showing a jug, or a hand pouring, or sometimes a Sultan – as a reference to Turkey where much of the coffee originated. James Farr opened a coffee house in

Fleet Street in 1656 called the Rainbow, but he seems to have run into trouble with his neighbours as the following “presentment of nuisance” lodged on 21 December 1657 shows:

*We present James Farr for making and selling of a drinke called coffee whereby in making the same he annoyeth his neighbours by evill smells: and for keeping of fire for the most part night and day whereby his chimney and chamber hath been set on fire to the great danger and affrightment of his neighbours.*

By the 1670s these fascinating token issues had been suppressed and we have to wait another 120 years before the chronic shortage of small change leads to another explosion of issues, better engineered but less prolific. However, there is still much material for the student of drinking.

If the 17th century gave us coffee then the 18th century was the boom time for tea. Although coffee was well established by the end of the 1650s, Pepys’ diary entry for 25 September 1660 notes:

*And afterwards did send for a cupp of tee, a China drink of which I had never drank before.*

The arrival of tea as a fashionable drink may be attributable to Catherine of Braganza, the wife of Charles II, as she appears to have been a tea addict and her dowry included a chest of tea.

However, for the rest of the century importation remained very small, probably because of the high price and tax on tea with only about 13000 lbs being imported in 1699. But in the early 18th century it seems to have suddenly caught on with imports rising to nearly one and quarter million lbs in 1721.

The high tax led to tea smuggling on a massive scale and it is not until a dramatic reduction in the tea tax in 1747 that we see another jump in “official” imports, which reached nearly five million lbs in 1750.

In the early days not everyone was immediately familiar with how to take it – there is a well-documented example of a lady who boiled the leaves up and served them to her guests with butter and sugar. Anyone who has accidentally taken a mouthful of tea leaves can appreciate how unpleasant that must have been. However, by the 1790s everyone was familiar with tea and we get nice tokens like the one from Garraways showing a Georgian teapot with the legend “The best teas in Croydon” – perhaps a fairly modest claim! Garraways were an old established firm, originally based in a coffee-house in Exchange Alley and as far back as 1660 Thomas Garraway had been extolling the virtues of tea as a medicine, claiming:

**It maketh the body active and lusty**

*It vanquith heavy dreams, easeth the brain and strengtheneth the memory  
It prevents and cures agues, surfets and feavers by intaking a fit quantity  
of the leaf provoking a most gentle vomit and breathing of the pores and  
hath been given with wonderful success.*

*It drives away all pains in the collick proceeding from wind , and purgeth  
safely the gall.*

Garraway’s view was not universally shared though. To some, the switch from drinking beer to drinking tea was seen as unmanly and an article in *The Gentleman’s Magazine* of 1737 condemns it roundly:

*Tea is utterly improper for food, hitherto useless in physick and therefore  
to be arranged among the poysonous vegetables. Were it entirely  
wholesome as balm or mint it were yet mischief enough to have our whole  
populace used to sip warm water in a mincing and effeminate manner  
once or twice a day ... The poor people’s children which are bred with it  
are only fit for footmen and chambermaids ... .I leave anyone to judge*

*what soldiers we are like to have. The Spaniards very likely had felt the force of English beer within this last 20 years, if the use of it had not been exchanged for warm water bewitch'd with Indian poyson.*

Despite this, the tide was now firmly in favour of tea and many other grocers issued tokens relating to its sale and frequently showing a tea chest or storage can.

In passing, I should also mention another 18th century drink, associated with Thomas Spence of token fame. When he first arrived in London in 1792, he made his living with a book and saloop stall on the corner of Holborn and Chancery Lane. Saloop was apparently a hot drink made from an infusion of sassafras with milk and sugar, (a sort of 18th century latte?) which doesn't sound very appetising to me – but no doubt suited the tastes of the time. Sadly, although Spence issued many tokens, all relate to his political beliefs rather than the virtues or otherwise of saloop.

Not everyone stuck to soft drinks though. “Gin mania” was a phenomenon from the early 1720s and in 1725 it was estimated that there were 6187 gin shops in London. By 1743 more than eight million gallons of gin were being consumed annually.

Hogarth's “Gin Lane” (1751) is a splendidly evocative view of this period and it was not until the 1750s that the Government finally got a grip on the problem. By 1784, consumption had dropped to one million gallons a year – still considerable but nowhere near the problem of earlier in the century.

In the 18th century token series, we find several issuers who were distillers or wine merchants such as Peters of Perth (probably whisky!) and Neetons who appears to have been a general wine and spirits merchant.

We also have tokens relating to the manufacture and distribution of beer as evidenced by the Lamberhurst token showing hops growing and being harvested, and the Tenterden token showing a dray delivering beer with the splendid legend, “To cheer our hearts!”

Beer at this time was seen as a completely wholesome drink, small beer for example being drunk at breakfast even by children, in sharp contrast to the evil reputation of cheap spirits.

The issue of unofficial farthings in the 19th century provides another rich vein of references to drinks, with many extant examples referring to tea and coffee suppliers.

By the 1830s tea had become the common drink for Britons at all levels of society, even the landed gentry: in *Tom Brown’s Schooldays* by Thomas Hughes (set at this time), Tom is on his way to Rugby and is having breakfast at a coaching inn:

*“Coffee or tea sir”, says Head Waiter, coming round to Tom. “Coffee please”, says Tom with his mouth full of muffin and kidney. Coffee is a treat to him, tea is not.*

Despite the memories of “gin mania” strong spirits continued to be produced, and at comparatively low prices. Two tokens illustrate this – Royal Sovereign and O’Tooles whiskies. One suspects these were not exactly single malts and probably more akin to the “Lockanbar “ whisky purchased by Mr Pooter in *The Diary of a Nobody* – at 35/- a dozen. There are also nice advertising tokens issued by Wine and Spirit suppliers

The social issues associated with strong drink, together with the rise in Evangelical Christianity during the mid-Victorian period, led directly to the establishment of the Temperance Movement, and there are tokens of the period relating to this, one from the Band of Hope (or blue-ribboners as they were called) and another from Professor Andre’s Alpine

Choir. I'm not sure exactly how a Matrimonial Society worked – possibly as a respectable club where unattached men and women could meet with a view to later marriage (a sort of 19th century dating agency) - but the reverse legend on the piece, “No tipplers need apply” makes it very clear where they stood on drink.

The Temperance Movement gave rise to a number of temperance establishments, designed to compete directly with pubs. The first of these Coffee Public Houses opened in London in 1873 and by 1884 there were 121 in the capital and they had spread throughout the country. In my own part of London, the China Cup opened in the new suburb of Crouch End in March 1880 as a workingman's coffee shop and club.

The mid-Victorian period also saw the birth of the Co-operative movement, where customers were treated as shareholders and were entitled to “dividends” according to their spending – which was monitored by the issue of tokens. Tea was obviously a major purchase item, as there were many specialist tea companies who also adopted the dividend idea, issuing checks against purchase. Most of these were fairly simple, though some Irish examples are very attractive.

Despite the best efforts of the Temperance Movement, pubs remained popular and the latter half of the 19th century sees the introduction of pub checks.

There has been some debate about exactly how these were used but it is generally accepted that they served a dual function of advertising and aiming to encourage loyalty to a particular house. The Cross Keys is a fairly common sign and has its origins in the keys of St Peter as mentioned above. The Unicorn is a quite common heraldic device, usually with a Scottish connection.

Up to now I have concentrated mainly on tokens to purchase or

advertise drinks, and exclusively in Britain. However, we should not forget that many of the drinks consumed came from overseas and another category of token would have been those issued to pay the workers who produced them.

The wonderful fortified wine Madeira had been discovered almost by accident when a batch of wine for India had become heated during the voyage (*estufagem*), producing a rich wine with incredible longevity. (I have tasted a 70-year old Madeira that tasted as fresh and lively as the day it was made.) The British rapidly cornered the trade in Madeira and issued tokens to pay the porters who brought the wine down to be loaded onto the ships. The first, issued by Phelps, Page in 1803 was later countermarked by Fenay and Irmaos for their use in the 1880s. The second (for Cossart, Gordon) was issued in the early 20th century and the brand still exists (though now as part of the Madeira Wine Company).

Then we have tokens issued by coffee producers, one as an advert and one to pay workers on the *fincas* in Argentina. Similar finca tokens were issued in Costa Rica. As an aside, the principle of issuing tokens for use in the company stores was well established in South America, with the many nitrate mine tokens of Chile serving as another example.

Closer to home, beer was of course produced domestically and British beer needed hops. So we have the well-known series of hop tokens, provided by the farmers as tallies to monitor the quantity of hops picked by each worker, which would then be redeemed at so much per bushel. Many are quite simple and quite common, but there are nice pictorial examples whilst most simply bore initials or a value.

Another field of refreshment tokens is canteen tokens, issued by companies for use in their works canteens. An example issued by a dye

company in Lyon would clearly serve to procure a glass of wine with lunch. I have seen an exactly similar token with “PAIN” (bread) on the reverse thereby offering the French worker the two essentials of life. I’m not sure exactly how an example from the Royal Army Clothing Factory was used but the very existence on it of a “tea fund” is a good indication of the importance of tea to the British worker.

The 20th century has also produced some interesting tokens and medals. Let’s start with Germany where, as we might expect from such a great brewing nation, beer tokens are relatively common.

I have a soft spot for non-metal tokens, so I was pleased to find a wooden advert token for St Raphael Quinquina the French aperitif. Wood is perhaps one of the least common materials for tokens and medals but this orange advert is certainly eye-catching.

Tokens for use in clubs are not uncommon - an Egyptian token from the Kit-Kat Lido in Cairo is only for 1 piastre, I suspect it could well have been used to purchase drinks.

An American token is yet another category, being a “spinner”. It has a raised boss on one side and an arrow on the other, so that it can be spun on a table and the person who ends up with the arrow pointing at them buys the next round.

Close to the end now, a couple of Antipodean tokens. First is a little milk token from Wellington in New Zealand. I assume this is something like our Co-op tokens, and indeed UK Co-op milk tokens are well known. As a keen wine drinker, I also like another token, from 1935, for Emu Empire wines – “Good for you, good for the Empire “. This sounds rather like Monty Python’s “Melbourne Old and Yellow – this one really opens the sluices at both ends!” and is a nice indication of how far the Aussie wine industry has come in the last 75 years as now



wines such as Penfold Grange rank with the finest in the world.

I hope this light-hearted survey of tokens and drinking has been entertaining. As a final word, and to return to my comments at the beginning, perhaps I should just mention the only token I know of actually relating to water purchase. I don't have a photo, but tokens are known for Jagersfontein in South Africa, with "3 gallons" on the reverse. I understand that there was a token-operated pump in the town, which would deliver three gallons of water on insertion of the token. Let's hope that our political masters don't pick up on this idea as a potential approach to taxing breathing!

### **London Numismatic Club Meeting, 1 March 2011**

This was the occasion of the Club's 63rd Annual General Meeting. The earlier start time of 6pm, with the meeting held in the Lower Common Room of the Warburg Institute, gave more time after the AGM for the Club's customary Cheese and Wine Party.

The President, John Roberts-Lewis, delivered his address, outlining the past year's programme and thanking especially the Club's Programme Secretary, David Berry, for his sterling efforts in producing a varied and interesting programme of speakers. He also thanked the speakers (several being Club members) and the Committee for its work and support of him in office. The Treasurer reported that the Club's finances were still in a healthy state and there was no call for the moment to consider an increase in the Club's very modest subscription.

At the close of the meeting members then regalled themselves on the usual very fine buffet that had been laid out for the party.

The elected Club's Officers and Committee are:

President: John Roberts-Lewis

Deputy President: David Sealy

Secretary: Robert Hatch

Assistant Secretary: Gerry Buddle

Treasurer: Paul Edis

Programme Secretary: David Berry

Editor of the Newsletter: Peter Clayton

Webmaster: Harold Mernick

Committee: Anthony Gilbert, Philip Mernick, David Powell

Anthony Holmes was re-elected as Honorary Auditor.

### **London Numismatic Club Meeting, 5 April 2011**

This meeting took the form of a Numismatic Quiz which had been set by David Sealy and Peter Clayton, who acted alternately as Question Master.

There were 11 members present to pit their wits and numismatic knowledge against 40 questions with a possible score of 51 points. Two book prizes had been generously made available by Philip Skingley of Spink's Book Department. They were Christopher Eimer's *British Commemorative Medals and Their Values*, and the Spink *Standard Catalogue of British Coins: Coins of England and the United Kingdom*, 46th edition, 2011 – the winner to have first choice of either book.

The winner was Frans Sandberg with a score of 37 points, closely followed by David Powell with 34 points. Frans chose Christopher Eimer's book, and so David won the *Standard Catalogue*.

So that other members can test their own knowledge, the Quiz questions are reproduced here (and the answers later in this *Newsletter*, but write your answers down before you check them – don't cheat!).

There are 40 questions in the areas of Ancient (13), Medieval (12), and Modern (15) coins.

A total of 51 points are possible as some questions carry two points (as indicated).

1. Which country and peoples did Herodotus say invented coins?
2. If I'm a "Joey" and worth two-thirds of a "Tanner" – what coins are we? (2)
3. If I'm a gold coin with a hole in me, the chances are I'm a what?

4. What was a third guinea worth, and in whose reign was it struck? (2)
5. Which Roman emperor took part in the Olympic Games and represented himself playing a lyre there on his coins?
6. On whose coins would you find the Christian Chi-Rho symbol 200 years before Christ was born?
7. Where were merks and boodles used as coins in medieval times?
8. Whose wife was the empress Plautilla?
9. Who issued the first 18th century penny tokens?
10. What plant is on the florins of Elizabeth II, but missing on the florins of George VI?
11. When was the striking of 17th century local tokens made illegal?
12. What was the largest ancient Greek denomination struck, and name two of the cities striking it? (3)
13. Where was one third-farthing currency in the 19th century?
14. What was a martlett seen on some hammered coins?
15. Which ancient Greek gold coin was the basis for the designs on many ancient British coins?
16. Who was Matthew Boulton's business partner in striking "Cartwheels"?
17. Which ancient Greek city had an owl as its badge?
18. When did the Irish Free State first strike coins?
19. When were and who struck Puffins? (2)
20. Who was the first Commoner to appear on the UK coinage after Oliver Cromwell, and when? (2)
21. Where was "hog money" struck, c. 1620?
22. Which 19th century family was the most prolific in designing coins and medals?
23. Who designed the Petition Crown, and what was its date? (2)

26. Which way does Edward VIII face on his coins, and why?
27. Which British king has a corn ear dividing the letter CA MV as a reverse type, and where was it struck? (2)
28. What do Richard III, Mary Tudor and George I have in common?
29. Which Indo-Greek king shares his name with an ancient Greek poet and playwright?
30. Romulus and Remus, the legendary founders of Rome, often represented on coins, founded it when?
31. Who was the last English king to strike Angels?
32. Apart from the legend EID MAR, what else is on the reverse of the silver denarius of Brutus?
33. Why was Eloye Mestrelle hanged at Norwich, and when? (2)
34. Where would you find the Golden Hind on coins?
35. Which Roman emperor recorded his British campaigns on coins and died at York In AD 211?
36. Who is the present Keeper of Coins & Medals in the British Museum?
37. In whose reign did the date first appear in Roman letters on coins, and what were they in Roman letters? (2)
38. How many tremisses made up a Late Roman gold solidus?
39. Whose coins predominated in the 1909 Brussels hoard of 150,000 coins?
40. How many designers have been involved on the coins of Elizabeth II, and who designed the present bust on the coins? (2)

Possible total points for correct answers = 51.

## **London Numismatic Club Meeting, 7 June 2011**

This evening took the form of the Club's usual annual Members' Own evening, to which five members contributed.

**David Berry** told of his experiences in buying coins at auction over the Internet. He spoke of how the major auction houses are opening up the possibility of bidding and said that he has bought from Spink and Gorny & Mosch. One can also buy from CNG but do keep in mind the time, i.e. the six hours difference. He was particularly keen on Gorny & Mosch because although the auction is in Munich (one hour difference) it is conducted in English and literally thousands of coins are sold. David showed on screen how the bidding takes place. He urged members to investigate these auction sites, particularly those members possibly retired because it gives the opportunity to see so many coins.

He also told us of an encounter with two men attempting to buy an 1818 George III sovereign (S3785D, extremely rare) at the February (2011) Holiday Inn Fair. This coin was £700 in 2000; £950 in 2003; £1750 in 2005; £2000 in 2007, £4500 in 2009; £5000 in 2010, and £6000 2011 (Spinks *Standard Catalogue* prices). The coin was for sale at the Holiday Inn Fair for £6000. The sale did not take place because although the dealer said he would make a reduction for cash the men found fault with the coin saying that it had a scratch. However, this coin had risen remarkably in value compared with others (£5,300 in eleven years), and David wondered how it would be possible to discover which coins were raising in price so rapidly, e.g. the fastest rising and falling shares on the Stock Market are published, so why not the same for coins? How did these men discover the movement of this particular sovereign? It gave members food for thought.

**David Powell** continued his talk of last year on “Dating the Roman Ladies”, concentrating this time on the Severan period and the years immediately following. As previously, he looked at the possibility of using various features on the coins to try and establish the chronology despite the lack of more overt dating. Unlike the Faustinas last year, however, most of the Severan empresses were either of much shorter duration or, where not, and showed little variety of obverses.

First there was Plautilla, who seemed to choose a different hairstyle for each different issue, and who was therefore fairly useless for such purposes of analysis; in any case, she only lasted from 202 to 205. For longevity, Julia Domna was the first lady of the time, striking from 196 to 217; but disappointingly she had only two major obverses, plus one or two regional variants output by the provincial mints which were striking up until about 202. The first of the major obverses is more conventional in style, the second somewhat reminiscent of a judge’s wig. The latter appears on her later pieces, including all her antoniniani, which started in 214.

There were no ladies during the brief reign of Macrinus and his son Diadumenian, but after that there were, for a few brief years, empresses in profusion. Julia Maesa, the contemporary equivalent of a Queen Mother, or perhaps one should say Queen Grandmother, presided in turn over two daughters (Julia Soaemias and Julia Mamaea) and two grandsons (Elagabalus and Severus Alexander), the first of whom had three wives by the age at which boys today normally complete their A-levels.

Elagabalus was an interesting and dissolute character, of course, and one who offended the Roman sensibilities considerably, not least when he married a Vestal Virgin; but it is his associated womenfolk and their coins, not he and his, with whom we are interested here, except, of

course, when the latter provide evidence!

Modern collectors of the English series make great play on the difference between the old and young heads of Victoria; but why are the differences between the old and young head of Maesa and Soemias so neglected in comparison? The majority of these ladies' pieces, and most noticeably those with the Pudicitia reverse, show an aging empress with the hair at the rear of her head above the line of the chin; but a few show a much younger head with the hair quite clearly below the level of the chin. These young head pieces of Maesa are slightly more numerous than those of Soemias, suggesting that the latter might have started coining later; but both are decidedly scarcer than their old head equivalents.

The mint at the time had six workshops, predominantly working for the emperor(s), but it was common for them to cede one or occasionally two to their empresses. Maesa doubtless had one throughout, from when Elagabalus came to power, and he presumably let his wives have a second during their various brief marriages. It is doubtful whether Elagabalus would have allowed Soemias a third, as that would have left him featuring on only 50% of all the mint output; so perhaps she only had mintages in the various periods before and between her son's marriages, when there were no wives around. This would explain why her coins are not as common as one might otherwise expect, given her period of office.

Which leaves us trying to work out which reverses pertain to which years. Antoniniani, commenced as an experiment in 214, ceased in 219 and did not appear again for another 19 years. Maesa's are probably all young head pieces with Pietas reverse, which suggests that that was the issue of one of the early years, probably 219. Iuno also appears with young head obverses, so that is another early year, perhaps 218.

The presence of both early and late heads paired with one of these reverses, as I believe may be the case with Pietas, would determine the sequence.

The other major reverses of Maesa are Fecunditas, Saeculi and Pudicitia. The last-mentioned always has the very oldest looking heads, and is almost certainly the issue of 222. As to the others, a further clue is the occasional presence of the star associated with Elagabalus' and Maesa's worship of the cult of Baal and the Stone of Emesa; so one may look at the date of Elagabalus' issues showing those features and deduce that those coins of Maesa which also show them are similarly dated. These issues are generally dated 220 to 221, perhaps more the latter date, with Saeculi being the most common reverse inscription. Fecunditas might reasonably be the next type introduced in the hope following Elagabalus' acquisition of a wife; so, for the moment let us speculatively assume that Fecunditas might be 220 and Saeculi 221.

Of course, a larger statistical sample than David was able to examine is necessary to be able to draw conclusions, and he said as much; nevertheless, it is encouraging to think that in such a short period of time there are so many interesting pointers. Another, and one again of which there seems to have been not much previous mention, is the manner of clipping together or otherwise fixing the hair at the reverse of the empress's head. In the earlier part of Maesa's reign, on all the young head pieces and a significant number of old head ones, this is small and low down. Some time in the middle of the reign, and possibly during the issue of Fecunditas (220?), a longer and more elongated back piece replaces this; however, it looks as if there may be sub varieties of the latter which might be worth examination as to their distribution between the various later reverses. One that joins Fecunditas/Saeculi and another



joining Saeculi/Pudicitia is a possibility, but it needs further research.

There are, of course, minor reverses of both Maesa and Soaemias, some of which one might well be able to date more accurately from the various features on the major reverses discussed above. It is possible, also, that one of these might actually be the intended major reverse for Maesa during 223, in which year she died very early.

None of Elagabalus's wives, married in the three consecutive years 219, 220 and 221, lasted very long, and David was able to illustrate only the first, namely Julia Paula; nevertheless, the latter shows two distinct varieties of bust, one fairly conventional and the second with what looks like dreadlocks. The second conveys thoughts of ancient Egypt and is to some extent an evolution of the late head of Julia Domna, although by no means absolutely similar.

From the replacement of Soaemias/Elagabalus by Mamaea/Severus Alexander in 222, the coinage of the empresses starts to lose interest, at least in comparison with those of their predecessors. Julia Mamaea's first year issue is different from the rest in that the obverse inscription runs unbroken round the top of the head, whereas in all later years it splits right and left; which latter leaves it short of adequate space, and causes its two components to become rather compressed. The style of head is thereafter copied by a number of empresses over the next few decades, as several illustrations of various imperial couples' pieces illustrated; amongst them a 19th century copy of an antoninianus of Tranquillina, the original of which is horrendously rare.

Brief mention was made in conclusion to the capability of using Alexandrian provincial pieces to tie obverses to dates, but there is little help to be had in this period, for various reasons:

- The pieces of this series, being copper rather than silver, are usually too worn for the minutiae to be studied in any significant number.
- There is likely to be a time lag between Rome and Alexandria in terms of knowledge conveyance and artistic reproduction.
- There was a severe dearth of Alexandrian minting during much of the Severan period, with normal minting resuming only in the time of Elagabalus; in consequence of which, there are hardly any specimens to examine during a period in which Rome itself was extremely prolific.

**Peter Clayton** exhibited an example of the Lyell Medal of the Geological Society in bronze (60mm diameter) in its case of issue, together with an 18th century engraving and a blue and white transfer plate of c. 1820. He said that they all came together in their subject matter and perhaps an appropriate title for this presentation should be “Serapis & Serendipity”.

Peter collected medallions relating to archaeology, archaeologists, and depicting sites. The reverse of this medal showed a view of the so-called “Temple of Serapis” at Pozzuoli, ancient Putuoli, near Naples. The name was a misnomer attached by early antiquaries as the building concerned was actually a market place of the 1st century AD. But what was the connection of Lyell and the medal’s reverse?

Sir Charles Lyell (1797-1875) was the most prominent geologist of the 19th century, having turned from law (he was called to the Bar in 1825), to geology early in life. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1826 at the remarkably early age of 29. In 1830 he published his epoch making book, *Principles of Geology* that was to run through 11 editions from 1830 to 1872. He had become President of the Geological Society in 1835, and it was whilst studying Italian Tertiary Strata during a

visit to Italy in 1828 that he became particularly interested in a geological system based on the examination of the proportion of recent to extinct species of shells, which brings us to Pozzuoli. Lyell noticed that on the remaining upstanding columns of the 'Temple of Serapis' there were two distinct bands of shell deposits at 3½ and 5½ metres above ground level where the columns were eaten away and perforated by a species of shell fish (*Lithodomus lithophagus*). He realised that this was evidence that the temple and its columns had been submerged for 3½ metres and then again for another 2 metres, hence they had been submerged twice and probably brought to the level seen in the 18th century engraving due to the local eruption of 1538. They were again raised above the sea when they became dry land in the early 20th century. A local quake in 1970 then raised the local ground level by 90cm. The bands of sea shell deposits can be clearly seen on the medal.

Back to the medal. It was instituted by Charles Lyell by his will in 1875 to be awarded annually "on the basis of research to an Earth Scientist of exceptional quality". The medal carries Lyell's portrait bust, left, on the obverse and is inscribed CHARLES LYELL 1873 (which is curious as the medal was officially instituted in 1875), and inscribed on the truncation L. C. WYON (the die engraver). The reverse has a view of the 'Temple of Serapis' with three upstanding columns. This specimen is inscribed around the edge WILLIAM SAWNEY BISAT . 1942. THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Bisat (1886-1973), a retired civil engineer and surveyor, was aged 61 when he received the medal and was elected FRS in 1947 for his work on the fauna of carboniferous rocks and their stratigraphical succession and the drift deposits of Yorkshire.

And now for the serendipity. The medal was acquired about 15 years ago but the engraving was sent to Peter only some five years ago as

a present from a friend in Padua, Brunilda Murari, Secretary of the Amici di Belzoni, without knowing that he had an example of the medal – it was just something she thought would be of interest – serendipity first part. The second part occurred last year when wandering around an antiques fair at Watford. There was a blue transfer plate (26cm diameter) of c. 1820 with an ancient ruin on it and an inscription identifying the scene as being ‘The Temple of Serapis at P...’. The dealer thought that the rest of the missing P... word probably read Pompeii, but Peter knew better, and immediately recognised it as being the temple at Pozzuoli – matching the reverse of the Lyell medal! The plate had suffered a little, as they do - two small chips around the edges made by its having been wall mounted on a wire frame, and a small neat hole drilled through it - but he hadn’t the heart to try and knock the dealer down from the £4 he was asking for it. So, serendipity and Serapis came together! Added to which, the red jasper second century AD Roman intaglio set into his 18th century ring (probably as a souvenir of the Grand Tour) represents the Graeco-Egyptian-Roman god Jupiter-Serapis.

**Tony Gilbert** drew members’ attention to and exhibited some important recent numismatic publications which he suggested were worthy of consideration if one wanted to maintain a comprehensive reference library alongside one’s own specialist interest works.

*Money & Medals* is the new name for CCNB (Co-ordinating Committee for Numismatics in Britain), a triannual free newsletter, simply produced as eight A4 pages. Members of the RNS, BNS, and BAMS, which are all sponsoring societies, receive a free copy, either as hard copy by post or by email, should you choose. Non-members of these Societies can request a copy free by email.

The *Newsletter* emanates from the Department of Coins & Medals at the British Museum, and there is also a web site and it can be found on Facebook and Twitter. It is mainly produced for museum curators with numismatic collections, but also individual collectors can benefit from its contents. Each issue is theme-based and contains articles and notes from respected curators and numismatists. The diary section is useful because it lists future exhibitions, seminars, colloquia, conferences and society lectures, as well as auctions and fairs. It includes contact details of the major Associations and Societies and informs what is happening in the numismatic world and maintains a high standard of reporting.

*Portraits of a Prince, Coins, Medals and Banknotes of Edward VIII*, by Joseph Giordano Jr, is the catalogue of the author's extensive collection which has since been sold. A full review of it by the present writer appeared in the last *Club Newsletter*, pp. 78-82.

*The Standard Catalogue of the Provincial Banknotes of England and Wales*, by Roger Outing. Token Publishing. 520pp incl. 84 colour plates. Hardback, £75. This is the first complete volume on this series as previously coverage had only appeared in parts. It is thus a massive improvement on previous, but none the less invaluable, works such as Geoffrey Grant's *Standard Catalogue of Provincial Banks and Banknotes* (1972), and whose help Outing acknowledges. The catalogue listing of the banks gives names, partners, establishment date and end date, banknotes issued and valuations. There is a list of counties and towns which issued notes and an index of bank titles, private banks, and towns. All of the private and Joint Stock banks of England and Wales are listed. There are 84 useful colour plates illustrating some 840 notes.

The book will obviously become a standard reference on the series

and, in passing, one might also notice the author's *Standard Catalogue of English Travellers Cheques*.

Paul and Bente Withers's *The Token Book. 17th, 18th and 19th Century Tokens and Their Values*, is a very comprehensive basic catalogue covering an enormous series. A review of it by Peter Clayton appeared in the last Club Newsletter, pp. 82-4.

*British Commemorative Medals and Their Values*, by Christopher Eimer is a sumptuous and studious work published in a numbered edition of 2000, hardback, with 576 pages listing some 2300 medals with a guide to current values, and 249 colour plates. It is a book packed with information that presents a broad overview of British medallic history. It is indeed a worthy successor in a long line of works listing the British medal series that began with John Evelyn's *Numismata* in 1697. The first comprehensive listing was Edward Hawkins's *Medallic Illustrations*, 1885, and subsequently reprinted. Our Founder Member Laurence Brown's magisterial three volumes, *British Historical Medals* (BHM) took the series from 1760 to 1960. In 1984 Daniel Fearon's *Catalogue of Commemorative Medals*, was the first to provide valuations and Eimer's first edition of this book was published by Seaby in 1987. This new, considerably enlarged and augmented edition is not only a mine of information and a valuable reference work it is also pleasant simply to browse through admiring the consummate work of medallic engravers and the unusual and intriguing bites of information.

**Robert Hatch**, the Club's Secretary, enthusiastically recounted his visit to a flea market on a recent visit to New York, where he had parted with \$125 for 14 items which he admitted were mainly of paranumismatic interest, but they had caught his eye; amongst them were:

A mutilated Lincoln head cent inscribed with the Lord's Prayer,

curiously with the usual legend, 'In God we trust', inappropriately removed. Robert liked transit tokens, and one was for the Miami Transit Company. Another token showed Thomas A. Edison, a kindly looking face complete with bow tie. The obverse legend recorded 'Light's Golden Jubilee', and the reverse, 'Dedicated to Better Vision' with an old light bulb, 1879, and in the foreground a newer version, 1929, with, for good measure, an Aladdin's lamp.

A curious piece gave an apt message for present times: obverse "Be happy every morning until 10 and the rest of the day will take care of itself". The reverse bore: "Good luck Keep up the old smile. F.G.Clayton' [no relation to the Editor!]. Research in the records of the American Numismatic Society by the librarian, Elizabeth Hahn, drew a blank. A so-called 'Lucky Lindberg' coin showed him with the legend 'First non-stop flight New York to Paris Capt. Charles A. Lindberg May 20<sup>th</sup> May 21<sup>st</sup> 1927'. The obverse recorded: 'Lucky Lindberg coin. The Spirit of St Louis', and the aeroplane itself plus a four-leaf clover/shamrock, a horseshoe and the American shield. Not quite so lucky for Lindberg, as the world knew five years later in 1932 when his young son was kidnapped. Lindberg died in 1972.

Another token depicted an Irish-American gentleman beside his mule and with an umbrella protruding from a saddlebag and the legend 'Green River Whiskey'. Irish Whiskey is spelt with the 'e', Scotch without it. The reverse read 'It's lucky to drink Green River Whiskey'; although might have thought it had overtones of plankton and algae!

Other items recorded the New York World's Fair 1964-65, and advertising the Singer sewing machine with an illustration of the factory and of a machine, and reading, 'What's new for tomorrow is at Singer

today'. A couple of apparently Masonic pieces were inscribed, 'One penny', and reverse, 'Pentalpha Chapter No. 11 R.A.M. Hoboken NJ'; another similar had the letters SHTWSSTK around a central triangle and pair of dividers – potent Masonic symbols. Here the reverse was 'Harmony Chapter No. 9. R.A.M. Newarke N.J. Instituted Oct. 5. 1859' – both obviously fields for further research.

Robert passed these pieces and others from his 'trove' in New York and the Bloomsbury Fair for members to comment on.

### **London Numismatic Club Meeting, 5 July 2011**

Robert Thompson was this evening's speaker on 'London Signs and Tokens'. Robert's particular expertise on 17th tokens, as well as many other areas, is very well known, and notably for his continuing work on the publication of the Norweb collection of 17th tokens with his co-author Michael Dickinson.

Robert said that Part VIII of the 17th century tokens in the Norweb Collection, was to be published by Spink later this July [it was, see review below]. It follows Part VII on the City of London, published in 2007, and covers the county of Middlesex and Uncertain pieces, a good number of which have now been attributed. There have been so many interesting signs to elucidate that I thought there should be material for a talk, but as Larwood and Hotten found in the 19th century (*History of Signboards*, 1866, revised as *English Inn Signs*, 12th edition, 1907, then 1951, reprinted 1985), how best to arrange signs is a difficulty. In general I have followed the sequence in Norweb Part VIII, but I have extracted certain themes.

Signboards, of course, served to identify a building, and not only an inn or tavern as sometimes assumed. While primarily functional, they must also have added gaiety to the streets, and also puzzled passers-by to



understand their meaning, just as we have had to do for some of those represented on tokens. How was the World's End to be represented, or the New England on Saffron Hill? Without wording signs did not give an unambiguous name for spoken or written directions: Crowned Rose, Rosa Coronata, or Rose & Crown? Fleur-de-lis or Flower-de-Luce? Neither did they give the relative position in a long street, so the introduction of street numbering by 1770 represented considerable progress!

As represented on a token, signs did not provide a colour unless stated in the legends: Red Lion or Golden Lion; Golden Anchor (at Tower Wharf), or Blue Anchor, which at Wapping Old Stairs was confusingly spelled BLOW Anchor, but that was not a type of anchor.

**Theme 1:** A signboard depicted, as already seen in the City at Wood Street [Norweb 7852-3]. [8477] on a hanging sign with the letters **A R** for Anthony Ringwood near Tower Postern; similarly [8961] for S.M. in the Strand, is surely a signboard, although it has been described as a 'chopping-knife' and as a 'press'[VII,7699]. I may mention at this point the Star on Snow Hill, with the actual building represented on a billhead

**Fig. 1**

of John Strudwick, grocer, etc. (you can just make out a star on the fascia) [Fig.1], and likely to be related to [VII, 7128] Thomas Strudwick, confectioner at Holborn Conduit but by 1667 building a house on Snow Hill. It was in John Strudwick's house on 31 August 1688 that John Bunyan died. He had been drenched by a storm whilst riding from Reading, where he had reconciled a father and son.

**Theme 2:** Documented signs, especially AT Y<sup>E</sup> SIGNE Y<sup>E</sup> PLAT in Upper Shadwell, for the extraordinary trade of sea-chart maker to which the essay in the Introduction to Volume VIII is devoted.

[7907] A strange device at Cow Cross identified by the legend AT THE SIGNE OF THE LAST, i.e. the cobbler's tool.

[8578] At the TARLETON in Wheler Street, Spitalfields, remembering Richard Tarlton, actor and clown (d.1588), 'so beloved that men use his picture for their signs'. [Fig.2]

[8666] The Harp near Charing Cross reads at the SENE of the Harp, would this be for French *signe*?

[8889] With the Hand & HOALY Bush at S. C. NERE TEMPLE BAR, S.C. can be readily expanded as St Clement Danes, leaving the sign name ambiguous. Hatton's *New View of London* of 1708 has a reference to this 'Hand and holly bush', so apparently not Holy Bush.

**Theme 3:** Places named from signs, as familiar from the Angel, Nag's Head, etc.

[7956] Blue Anchor Alley in Old Street goes back to 1709, perhaps from the Anchor which appears on Edward Ward's halfpenny with a star above.

[8148] Of Cock Lane in Shoreditch the English Place-Name Society says 'Presumably the Cock was the sign of an inn', and a token bearing a cock reads AT COCK LANE END IN SHORDICH, so we have the evidence

**Fig. 2.**

RICHARD TARLTON

*From a drawing of the same size in the Pepsyian Library at Magdalen  
College Cambridge. Pub. April. 16. 1792. By E. Harding Fleet Street.*

for the sign of the Cock, though it was more likely a tavern than an inn.

[8221] The Goat in Flemish Churchyard presumably gave its name to Goat Alley, recorded in 1676.

[8348] Edward Jefferis in Ratcliff exhibited Three Foxes, which probably gave their name to Three Foxes Alley in Ratcliff.

[8628] The lost Blackmoor Street off Drury Lane, unexplained before 2009, now seems to have taken its name from the Two Black [Moors], or

Blackamoors sign, exhibited on the halfpenny of Edward Lovell, tobacconist, with the ancient confusion between Africans north and south of the Sahara.

[8973] At Exeter in the Strand doubtless took its name from Exeter House, standing on the north of the Strand until 1676, although the token represents not a single house but a cityscape.

**Theme 4:** Canting signs

[8136] The Horns in St Giles in the Fields were borne by Will HORNE.

[8382] The Man at the Wood was the sign of John Atwood, Rose Lane, Ratcliff, although another of his tokens from the same obverse die reads MAN IN THE WOOD.

[8485] The sign of the Gander, Upper Shadwell, was used by Elinor Gandor, and is apparently unique.

[8898] A clothing hook was used by Richard Barrett, chandler in St James's, and by

[8908] John Hooke, in St James's Market, so confirming that the sign was not a 'cheese-taster' as described since Akerman in 1849.

[8917] Also in St James's Market, Joseph Parsons traded at the Sign of the Parsons Green; he was presumably Joseph Parsons, senior, as described in 1686, and perhaps the 1711 Master of the Coachmakers' Company, but that is more likely to have been the Joseph Parsons [junior?] who took Coachmaker apprentices until 1722. The sign-name may be connected with Parson's Green in Fulham, where the Thames ferry could carry a coach and horses; but the place-name is older.

**Theme 5:** Trading signs

[8603] John Wood at the Golden Leg in Whitechapel put a stocking on his obverse between his initials **I W**, but on the reverse the same device between the letters **E W**, suggesting that his wife Elizabeth shared in the

business of hosier, both wife and business being named in his 1665 will.  
[9008] John Radford without Temple Bar put the Golden Spectacles on his 1668 ½d, with good reason, for he was Warden of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers in 1666, and Master in 1669-70.

**Theme 6:** Historic signs

[7957] At the Prince's Arms in Old Street is dated 1648, a remarkable date if it means 1649.

[8056] In Gray's Inn Lane Humphrey Wigan put the sign of a harrow on his 1663 tokens, and curiously, the Governors of Harrow School apprenticed a boy to him in 1657, but what connection if any there was between Harrow the place and Harrow the sign I have not found.

[8205] The New Queen's Head, East Smithfield, bears a bust of Elizabeth I, so what was new was evidently not the Queen, but presumably the Queen's Head establishment.

[8256] At the Cock & Bull near the Iron Gate might have derived from a tale of a Cock and a Bull, but the proverb goes back to at least 1608.

[8302] Gregory Cooke, Middle Shadwell, 1666, has an uncrowned bust recognisable as Charles II, with plume of feathers behind, suggesting that the sign originated c.1660 as the *Prince of Wales*, something which Charles was never formally created, but as which he was known from at least 1638.

[8431] At the Leigh Hoy, St Katharine's Wharf, is spelled LEE on the token like the nearby river (when not LEA), but a hoy was a small vessel employed in coastal traffic, so here for Leigh in Essex.

[8499] The Speaker Frigate in Upper Shadwell, a ship built in 1650, naming Parliament's Speaker as the substitute for a monarch, so not surprisingly the ship was renamed *Mary* at the Restoration.

[8613] The White Bear is ambiguous, occurring on Wapping Wall, in

Whitechapel, in Covent Garden, and in Bow, perhaps a polar bear rather than the famous *White Bear* ship which helped to defeat the Spanish Armada.

[8692] John Duban in Drury Lane bore the arms of France (modern), and his surname is French; perhaps he was a Huguenot.

[8759] John Genew at the Old Rhenish wine-house, King Street, Westminster, apprenticed a Vintner in 1651, a member of the City's Common Council who died in 1699 on election day, put on his token what has been described as a vase of flowers, but it is probably a glass of 'bubbly'.

[8794] John Fairebeard at the Oxford Arms in Long Acre, may indeed have had Oxford connections, for Thomas Fairebeard, apprenticed a Vintner in 1646, was son of a John Fairebeard, Oxford.

[8821] Charles Murry, grocer, against the Mews, Charing Cross, bore an ambiguous figure between the words *y<sup>e</sup> naked*, and probably the sign was The Naked Boy.

[8854] At the Saul in Petty France represents a bald man thrown from his horse, the occasion on which Saul was converted into St Paul.

[8855] Here is the distinctive roof of Inigo Jones's Banqueting House in Whitehall, on a token of Nicholas Sherman in Petty France.

[8876] George Carter at the St Alban in St James's; St Alban's attributes can include a peer's coronet, although the peer more in mind may have been the developer Henry Jermyn, Earl of St Albans.

[8900] Edward Lloyd, sutler to His Majesty's Guard of Foot, we attribute to St James's like two other sutlers' tokens, and the building appears to be the Banqueting House again.

[8945] A non-Williamson token reads IN SOHO, an imprecise name

which seems to have been given first to certain fields where hunting took place, IN FIELDS NEXT DOOR TO THE RED LION, presumably the Red Lion inn, High Holborn, whence Red Lion Square.

[9013] Palsgrave Head at Temple Bar, identified since Akerman 1847 as Frederick V, count palatine or *Pfalzgraf*, and son-in-law of James I, but in 1619 he had become king of Bohemia and was so named on signs; almost certainly here his son Charles Lewis, count palatine from 1649, who became a sort of Protestant mascot in England, to be put on the throne if Charles I turned Catholic.

[9073] Anne Finch in Acton, at the Cock as previously supposed, but this Cock is crowned, witness the existence in Acton of Cock and Crown Yard until 1904.

[9078] James Wilson in Acton, who probably arrived from Scotland for he put a thistle on his token, succeeding Thomas Sexston, chandler, and probably marrying his widow, for both their tokens have the wife's initial E; Elizabeth Wilson, widow, left a will in 1693. This is reminiscent of:

[9160] Dorothy Rippin at the Well in Hampstead, who issued a token as a widow, then married three more husbands, the first of whom also issued a token, as may be remembered from Philip Greenall writing on Hampstead tokens.

[9212] Robert Davenport at Kensington Gravel Pits (now Notting Hill Gate) displayed a plough with the legend GOD SPEED THE PLOW, a phrase which had epitomised the struggles of a husbandman since at least 1500.

Finally, the unexplained:

[8086] John Norris in High Holborn put on his undated halfpenny sadly no device but the legend At the Weapon CROSSTAKE tavern, which I can only explain as a stake where swords were crossed.

[See below under Book Reviews for a review of Norweb Vol. VIII, *Middlesex and Uncertain Pieces*.]

### **London Numismatic Club Meeting, 6 September 2011**

Michael Anderson, a Past-President of the Club, spoke on his great interest, and upon which he had published, 'The Coins of Ecuador'.

Michael said that, 'if you are wondering why I chose such an eccentric speciality as Ecuador, it is because I was already a coin collector and in the course of my duties in the Diplomatic Service I was sent to Ecuador for three years, and if you are going to collect coins in Ecuador it is a good idea to collect Ecuadorean coins, otherwise you are likely to be in for a rather frustrating time. The coins from 1937 onwards were still available in circulation, and there were plenty of shops in town with earlier coins for sale - it was more or less uncharted territory, because there was no Krause and Mishler in those days; there was Yeoman as a type catalogue from 1850, and Wayte Raymond, but they did not list individual dates let alone assayers' initials, so it was a question of just making a list as I went along, so when Dale Seppa published his *Monedas de la Patria* in 1969 I was able to write and tell him some he had missed, so he suggested we collaborate on a second edition, which was published in 1973'.

Ecuador is Spanish for Equator, so República del Ecuador means Republic of the Equator. The first currency was the copper money-axes, dating from about the ninth century AD until the Spanish conquest. The great expert on them is the Danish archaeologist Olav Holm, Director of the Anthropological Museum of the Central Bank of Ecuador, who has written numerous articles on them. Sizes vary but they can be up to about



a foot; some tiny ones of about an inch found in funeral deposits are probably symbolic. One funeral urn was found with 13000 tiny money axes, tied in bundles of 20, which suggests that the native Americans had invented the decimal, or strictly vigesimal, system.

In 1590 the King, Felipe II, ordered a feasibility study whether to establish a mint in Quito, but it was decided instead to supply Quito with coins from Potosí, which had opened as a mint in 1573, The first Potosí coins arrived in Quito in 1594, the occasion being celebrated with festivities and public rejoicings.

In 1758 a mint was opened in Popayán, which became the main source for Quito's coins. When the mint was closed again by royal order in 1763, the protests from the Quito authorities persuaded the king to reconsider, and the mint was reopened in 1767 and continued to provide the bulk of Quito's coinage until after independence.

What might be reckoned as Quito's first coin is a proclamation peseta of Carlos III, 1759, illustrated by José Toribio Medina in his *Las monedas coloniales hispano-americanas* published in Santiago de Chile in 1919. Of course it is not really a coin, but it has the king's portrait and a mint and date and is to the standard of a recognised denomination.

The first authorisation for a mint actually in the future Ecuador was on 26 December 1821, when the Viceroy of New Granada, General Juan de la Cruz Murgeón, who had relocated to Quito because of the deteriorating situation in Bogotá, ordered the Director of Popayán Mint, José María de Santizábal, to transfer the Popayán Mint to Quito. They only took the smaller presses, for striking pesetas, because the peso presses were too heavy to move easily, and by 15 January 1822 they had got as far as Tulcán, inside the Quito border, when General Murgeón felt that the situation in Quito was getting even more precarious, and ordered

Santizábal to cross back into New Granada and set up the mint in Pasto. They reached Pasto on 22 January and on 24 January Santizábal reported that he had struck pesetas with the head of Carlos IV because they had no puncheons with the head of Fernando VII. Carlos IV had abdicated in 1808 and had died in 1815 and here were coins with his head on dated 1822. One interesting thing about these coins was the legend Fernando VII D G et Const Hispaniarum Rex, by the Grace of God and the Constitution. They are probably the only Spanish colonial coins to mention the Constitution, which would not have gone down well with Fernando, who on the whole didn't much like constitutions and tended to tear them up as soon as they were passed. Dealers now often list these coins under Ecuador, and I think if I were collecting now I would include one in the collection, because they were intended to be struck in Quito, even though in the end they didn't quite make it.

Quito fell to the army of liberation under General Antonio José de Sucre at the battle of Pichincha on 24 May 1822. Quito was incorporated into Colombia on 29 May and the Colombian constitution was accepted on 13 June. Simón Bolívar himself was received in Quito in triumph on 16 June. He issued a decree on 28 July 1823 authorising the setting up of a mint in Quito, and some equipment was purchased, but no coins were struck at that time, possibly because of the lack of precious metal.

Ecuador seceded from Gran Colombia on 13 May 1830. On 23 October 1831 the first President of Ecuador, Juan José Flores, reminded Congress of Bolívar's 1823 decree, and a coinage law was passed on 8 November 1831 authorising the establishment of the mint and specifying the denominations to be struck. The setting up of the mint was entrusted to a Sardinian colonel, Alberto Salazza, despite, in his own words, "having never previously set sight on any establishment of this kind".

Construction commenced 14 December 1831 at the South West corner of the Plaza Mayor, between the Presidential Palace and the Cathedral. The original building was destroyed in the great earthquake of 22 March 1859, and although it was rebuilt in 1861 with a loan of 8000 pesos from the Banco Particular, minting ceased in 1863 and in 1865 the building was handed to the Jesuits for use as a National College. It is now occupied by the Centro Cultural Metropolitano de Quito.

By July 1832 the personnel was complete, with Alberto Salazza as director at 1800 pesos p.a., Francisco Eugenio Peyramale as comptroller at 1000 p.p.a., and William Jameson as chief assayer at 700 p.p.a. Jameson's initials, G.J., appear on Ecuadorean coins from 1833 to 36 and 1846 to 62. They also appear on the 1997 Sucre de Oro struck for the 70th anniversary of the Central Bank of Ecuador, 201 years after his birth. The G is because the Spanish for William is Guillermo. Jameson is listed in both the *Dictionary of National Biography* and the new Oxford *DNB*. Jameson studied chemistry and natural history at the University of Edinburgh and obtained a diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He served as a ship's surgeon from 1818 until 1821, when the ship he was on was seized during the independence struggle in Peru. Stranded in South America, he settled in Guayaquil as a surgeon; he was appointed Professor of Chemistry and Botany at Central University of Ecuador in Quito in 1827. He corresponded with many of the leading scientists of his day and several species of plants bear his name. The Library at Kew Gardens has more than 200 letters which he wrote to Sir William and Sir Joseph Hooker, and there are 220 letters written to him in Harvard University Library. He sent papers to the Royal Geographical Society. The mint's first samples were some copper patterns produced in August 1832. Meanwhile, the circulating medium in Ecuador was that of

neighbouring countries, particularly Colombia, but it had become known that the fineness of the Colombian coinage had been reduced in 1823, but with the coins continuing to be dated 1820 and 1821 so that they could not easily be identified. As a result a decree was passed on 26 December 1832, permitting the circulation of all genuine Spanish colonial coins and those of the newly independent states except those of New Granada, which were to be assayed and stamped MDQ if of correct fineness.

The first actual coins produced by the new mint were ½ reales on 30 December 1832, but they must have been dated 1833 as there are none known with the date 1832. A coinage decree passed on 13 January 1833 authorised the striking of silver half reales and pesetas and gold escudos. The design of the silver was to be a cornucopia and fasces (bound axes) and two small hills each with an eagle on top and the sun between; the gold was to have a bust of Liberty instead of the cornucopia and fasces. A one real was authorised on 28 February and minting commenced on 1 March, so the dies must have been prepared in advance of the legislation.

The capital was occupied by Chihuahuas on 13 July 1834 - these were not small dogs with pointed ears but liberal revolutionaries. Expecting the mint to contain large sums of money they seized it, imprisoned the director Alberto Salazza in a murky dungeon and appointed their own director José Pólit. Not finding the expected vast quantities of coins, they decided to make their own, with Jameson still acting as assayer. They continued with the existing designs, but added a new denomination, the doubloon, first struck on 8 December 1834. The 1834 doubloon is extremely rare. The Chihuahuas were defeated at the battle of Miñarica on 19 January 1835 and Colonel Salazza was reinstated as director of the mint.

A new constitution was adopted on 30 July 1835 which changed

the country's title from Estado del Ecuador to República del Ecuador, and this form is found on the coins from 1836 onwards. Early in 1836 Jameson was sent to Azogues by President Vicente Rocafuerte to supervise the extraction of silver ore, and he was replaced as assayer by Felicísimo Pardo with the initials FP. There are no escudos or doubloons dated after 1835, but a new gold denomination, the four escudos, was authorised on 14 July 1836. The obverse design showed the Pichincha volcano range, with Rucu Pichincha on the left, with a tower on top, and Guagua Pichincha on the right, both surmounted by a condor, and above the sun in a segment of the zodiac with the signs for Leo, Virgo, Libra and Scorpio, indicating the autumnal equinox when the sun is above the equator, and seven stars for the seven provinces. Early in 1838 Felicísimo Pardo was succeeded by Santiago Taylor, with the initials ST. A gold eight escudos was authorised on 18 March 1838, to the same design as the existing four escudos. It is one of these coins that features in Herman Melville's novel *Moby Dick*, where it is described.

Later in 1838 Santiago Taylor was replaced by Dr. Miguel Vergara, initials MV, until 1845. Jameson returned from Azogues in February 1840 and resumed the Professorships of Chemistry and Botany. He returned to medical practice in Guayaquil in July 1841, and in June 1846 to Quito and resumed the assayership until the closure of the mint in 1863. A new denomination, 4 reales, to the same design as the existing silver but with a lettered edge to make forgery more difficult, was authorised on 2 November 1841 and minting commenced on 30 November.

Minting of cuartillos (quarter reales) commenced on 31 August 1842; the decree authorising them was passed on 13 September. They were to be seven-twelfths of an inch in diameter and one third fine. The

design was to be a small tower with the zodiac line above. The requirement for the zodiac line was cancelled the next day, 14 September, so the extremely rare examples with the zodiac line were presumably minted between 31 August and 14 September.

A decree of 19 June 1843 authorised new designs with the head of Bolívar, who had died in 1830, and new arms. The only coins struck under this decree were 8 escudos & 4 reales of 1844 & 1845. The 8 escudos had the zodiac signs Leo and Scorpio and the 4 reales Scorpio and Leo, reading from left to right. A new silver denomination, the 8 reales was authorised by a decree of 29 December 1845. Bolívar was replaced by a bust of Liberty, and there were new arms again with the zodiac signs Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, going from the Spring equinox to 22 July, to mark the period of the revolution of 1845. The volcano was now specified as Chimborazo instead of Pichincha, and there was a ship in the design. These arms have continued unchanged to the present day. The coin was revalued to 9 reales in July 1846 and 1386 were minted.

There was a new coinage law on 20 November 1846. The gold was to have the head of Bolívar, the silver that of Liberty. The denominations authorised were gold onzas, half onzas, doubloons and escudos, and silver pesos, half pesos, pesetas, reales, half reales and cuartos. Onzas and pesetas were issued from 1847, half reales from 1848, cuartos from 1849 and half pesos from 1855. No half onzas, doubloons, escudos, pesos or reales were struck. Decimalisation and the metric system were introduced by a decree of 5 December 1856. Nevertheless half pesos and pesetas were issued dated 1857. A decree of 4 December 1857 authorised the 5 franc coin of 1858, which was designed by Emilia Rivadeneira, who also designed the first Ecuadorean postage stamps. However, the March 1859

earthquake put an end to all coining activities until January 1862.

There were no coins authorised of lower denomination than a silver cuartillo, or quarter real. This caused problems when making small value purchases. Friedrich Hassaurek, in his *Four years among Spanish Americans*, writes: ‘The mode of marketing is very queer. Of course ladies or gentlemen will not go to market, not even with a servant to carry the basket. This practice, so common with us, would be scandalous and disreputable in Spanish America. It is the cook, or sometimes the huasicama (housekeeper), who makes the purchases. He will first buy a few breads in a grocery, and with these breads he will buy his vegetables, or other articles worth less than a cuartillo, which is the smallest coin, and the fourth part of a real. One bread represents one fifth of a cuartillo, twenty breads being given for one real. The Indian producers or vendors, therefore, receive more bread than money. The want of copper coin is the cause of this strange custom.’

On 15 June 1861 the National Convention granted the Banco Particular authority to strike 200,000 pesos in 4 and 2 reales in return for a loan of 8000 pesos to repair the mint, of which William Jameson was now appointed director. In the end only 35,580 pesos were struck. It was intended that this should be a coinage of very high quality. Ralph Heaton and Sons of Birmingham were approached about providing the machinery, and dies engraved by the French engraver Albert Désiré Barre were obtained from the Paris mint – he is the Barre who designed the portrait of Bolívar that still appears on the coins of Venezuela and also the laureate head of Napoleon III. While waiting for the dies from Paris minting began in January 1862 using Quito produced dies. In addition to the 2 and 4 reales, they also produced cuartos and a condor of 50 francs. The cuarto is extremely rare. The condor has the zodiac signs in the

reverse order: Cancer, Gemini, Taurus, Aries, and is unique. The Paris mint produced dies and specimen strikings for the 2 and 4 reales, and also a larger denomination, a five francs. The French dies for all three denominations show actual representations of Capricorn and Pisces instead of the usual signs. Minting was suspended in March 1863, apart from a small issue in December 1863 to cover army expenses.

In 1864 the Ecuadorean Government commissioned Jameson to produce a standard work on Ecuadorean flora, *Synopsis plantarum Aequatoriensium* in three volumes, which was republished in 1940 and is still consulted. On 27 March 1866 Jameson was created a caballero of the Royal Order of Isabel the Catholic by Queen Isabel II of Spain. In 1869 he went to Argentina with one of his sons, and stayed there until 1871, when he returned to Scotland for the first time for over half a century, and met many of the distinguished scientists with whom he had been corresponding. He left Edinburgh on 28 November 1872, but when he got to Argentina he found his son had died on 2 December. He reached Quito by 15 June 1873, but died a week later, his funeral being a national occasion attended by the President himself, Gabriel García Moreno.

Having failed to ease the coinage situation by minting their own coins, the Banco Particular then decided to import 700,000 French silver 20 centimes, which is almost the entire output of all the French mints: Paris, Strasbourg, Lyon and Bordeaux, operating from 1861 to 1865. They circulated as a half real until devalued to four centavos by a decree of 17 October 1868, whereupon they promptly disappeared from circulation and were eventually redeemed by the Ecuadorean Treasury from August 1869, ceasing to be legal tender on 1 November 1869. This made the shortage of small change once again acute and in 1871 the Government authorised the Banco del Ecuador to import 20,000 pesos in



one and two centavo coins at 10 centavos to the real. The Banco del Ecuador arranged the coinage through Ralph Heaton & Sons of Birmingham, and their circulation was ordered by a decree of 6 June 1872, making them the first Ecuadorean coins minted outside the country. Heaton's were evidently pleased with their effort, because they used the dies for their advertising checks.

Nevertheless the bulk of coinage in Ecuador was that of other countries such as France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, USA, Chile, Colombia and Peru, and it was not until a decree of 22 March 1884 that an Ecuadorean coinage system was introduced, based on a hundred centavos to the sucre and ten sures to the condor. The sucre was named after General Antonio José de Sucre, the victor of the Battle of Pichincha. The 1884 sucre, half sucre, two décimos, décimo, half décimo, centavo and half centavo were all struck by Heaton, as were the 1899 and 1900 gold condors. Other issues were also struck at Santiago de Chile, Lima and Philadelphia. The Philadelphia two décimos of 1895, 1915 and 16 had the assayers' initials T.F. which they had copied from a Lima original without realising their significance, and the 1916 décimo had an H mintmark, similarly copied from a Birmingham original. By 1916 the silver value of the coins was greater than their face value and the coinage came to an end.

A new denomination, 2½ centavos, was issued in 1917, with 5 centavos in 1917, 18, and 19, and 10 centavos in 1918 and 19. In 1924 there was a 10 centavos with the head of Bolívar and a 5 centavos with the head of Vicente Rocafuerte, President from 1834-39. On 4 March 1927 Ecuador returned to the gold standard, with the sucre defined as 0.300933 grams of pure gold. The new coinage was issued in 1928, with a gold condor of 25 sures minted by Heaton, and a token silver coinage

of two sucres, Sucre and 50 centavos, and nickel 10, 5 and 2½ centavos and copper one centavo all from Philadelphia. Both the 10 and 5 centavos now had the head of Rocafuerte, and Bolívar never returned to the Ecuadorean coinage. The sucre was now 5g and 72% fine instead of 25g and 90% fine under the 1884 law, and was derisively known as an Ayora after the President at the time. The 50 centavos was called a Laurita after the President's wife, Laura de Ayora. In 1937 the sucre was re-issued in nickel along with 20, 10 and 5 centavos minted by Huguenin Frères of Le Locle, Switzerland, the three smaller denominations switching to Philadelphia minted copper-zinc in 1942 and to Denver, Colorado, in 1944. Silver 5 sucres were struck in Mexico in 1943, and 2 and 5 sucres in 1944, to the standard laid down in the 1928 law. During the 1940s the sucre was actually rising against the dollar. In 1959 the coins from sucre downwards switched to nickel-clad steel, and in 1963 a 50 centavos was issued for the first time since 1930. In 1973 cupro-nickel 2 and 5 sucres were minted, but all but about 35 2 sucres and 15 5 sucres were melted down. 1986 was the last year that coins were issued to the specifications in the 1937 coinage law. The first collector coins were silver S/1000s marking the 1986 Mexico World Cup. In 1988 there was a new coinage of 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1 sucre and 50 centavos, to which were added bimetallic 100 and 500 sucres in 1995, and a 1000 sucres in 1996. There were collector silver S/5000 in 1992 and 94 and a gold sucre de oro in 1997. By January 2000 the exchange rate was S/25000 to the dollar, and it was decided to adopt the United States dollar as the currency. However, Ecuador continued to issue its own 50, 25, 10, 5 and 1 cent coins, to the same specifications as the United States equivalents.

## **London Numismatic Club Meeting, 4 October 2011**

The Club welcomed Dr Roger Bland, OBE, FSA, Head of the Department of Portable Antiquities and Treasure in the British Museum to speak on 'The Frome Hoard and what it has been able to tell us about hoarding in Roman Britain.

The first indication that the field where the Frome hoard was found was going to be particularly interesting came on 9 April 2010 when David Crisp discovered a scattering of 4th-century Roman silver *siliquae* with his metal detector. Dave had been a keen metal detector user since 1988 and had already reported over 300 finds to his local Finds Liaison Officer in the Portable Antiquities Scheme, Katie Hinds. He was searching on a field, which at the time was under pasture but which had formerly been ploughed, with the permission of the landowner. There were 62 *siliquae* in the hoard, and the emperors ranged from Constantius II (337-61) to Eugenius (364-78)

On 11 April 2010, two days after he discovered the *siliquae*, Dave returned to the site. He began to work his way into the field and about 100m away from the area where the silver coins were found he received an unusual signal. Upon digging a small hole to investigate further he realised that he had hit the top of a pottery vessel containing some bronze coins. Recognising that he might be dealing with a hoard, he dug no further, filled the hole back in and reported his find immediately so that it could be excavated by archaeologists.

Straight away Dave contacted Katie Hinds who quickly realised that the site was just over the county border into Somerset and called the Finds Liaison Officer for that county, Anna Booth. With the help of her two colleagues in the Somerset Heritage Service, Naomi Payne (Historic

Environment Officer) and Robert Croft (County Archaeologist), Anna arranged for local archaeologist, Alan Graham, to lead an excavation of the site. Over the course of three days, Alan, with the help of Katie, Anna, Dave, the landowner's family and others, excavated the hoard in its entirety.

Once the topsoil had been removed the outline of the original pit became visible, surrounded by stones that had been placed to one side as it was being dug. Initially there had been little indication of the size of the hoard. Dave had retrieved a few small earthenware shards when he discovered it and at first these appeared to belong to the base of a fairly small vessel. However, it now became clear they in fact formed part of a small upturned dish that had been used as a lid for a much larger pot. As the shoulders of the vessel appeared, it revealed a grey ware storage jar, which was cracked but complete (60 cm tall and 45 cm in diameter). One sherd had slipped slightly allowing a glimpse of the interior, which was filled with bronze coins. It also became apparent that those who had buried it had carefully packed the sides of the pot with some sort of plant material.

At this point a decision had to be made about whether the hoard should be removed *en bloc* or excavated in parts. Due to the sheer size and weight of the hoard, it was decided that it would be impossible with available resources to remove it in one piece; furthermore, the pot was already broken into several pieces so it would have not been possible keep the coins in their original positions. Therefore the pot was carefully dismantled from the top down and the coins were removed in numbered layers. It was hoped that this process would provide additional information about the distribution of the coins during the later analysis process. The coins from each layer were immediately placed into labelled

bags and packed into boxes to protect them and prevent them from drying out. In total 60 bags of coins were collected over the course of the three days. The excavation had been a tremendous success, enabling us to speculate with much more confidence about the circumstances surrounding the burial of the hoard.

The hoard was brought to the British Museum on 26 April and the next morning the coins were weighed, giving a total of around 160kg. It was then realised that the hoard probably contained around 50,000 coins, although estimates varied by around 10,000 (the present number is now 520,503). However, a more immediate observation was that much of the hoard had been waterlogged in the ground. Not only did this add a little to the weight, it also meant that there was a serious conservation issue. It was therefore agreed that the coins should be washed and dried before they dried out naturally. Had they been left to dry, many of the oxides would have solidified making later conservation work much more complicated and expensive. In the space of about eight weeks the entire hoard was washed and dried - an amazing achievement.

As the coins were washed they began to be sorted by emperor. This took ten weeks and gave an overview of the hoard that would provide the basic information needed for the Coroner's Report.

It was very fortunate that Dave Crisp's promptness in reporting his discovery meant that we have much more information than is normal for a Roman coin hoard: with so many coin hoards we do not have enough evidence to know why they were actually buried.

The excavations showed how the pot was carefully nestled in the ground, apparently with packing. A dish was placed over the top as a lid and then it seems that the hoard was never disturbed again. Because of the sheer number and weight of the coins, it seems highly unlikely that

the pot was filled with coins before being placed in the ground; it would have probably broken before entry and/or would have been too heavy to manhandle. The pot was broken all over when discovered. It is just possible that the pot did have some coins in it before it was buried and that it was broken when placed in the ground. More likely, however, the pot had broken after burial, possibly due to later settling of the earth and expansion of the contents as a result of water logging, or possibly the movement of tractors above caused damage. If the pot was placed in the ground before filling, then we can imagine many smaller pots or bags of coins being tipped into it. This is supported by the large group of Carausius coins found in Layer 16 - this underlines the importance of the carefully recorded excavation as it provided an insight into the way the pot was filled. Given that the latest coins appear to be of Carausius, it is possible that the hoard is connected with the political upheavals that probably accompanied his assassination in AD 293.

The coins range in date from AD 253 to 293, covering a period of about 40 years and were struck at mints across the Empire. For much of this period, in addition to the core 'Central' Empire, there were breakaway dominions: between 260 and 274 a succession of seven rulers held power over Gaul and Britain, the so-called 'Gallic' Empire, while between 286 and 296 Carausius and Allectus ruled over Britain and part of Gaul.

There are very few higher quality silver radiate coins from the reigns of Valerian (253-60) and Postumus (260-69); either these coins had left circulation by the time the hoard was buried, or they had been deliberately excluded. The majority of the coins are base silver radiates (with less than 5 per cent silver) struck by Gallienus (260-68) and his wife Salonina, Claudius II (268-70) and the Gallic emperors Victorinus

(269-71) and the Tetrici, father and son (271-74). These are amongst the most common coins found in Britain – there were over 12,000 pieces of Tetricus I alone. There were a smaller number of ‘reformed’ radiates dating from AD 274 to 293. These are larger, silver-washed, coins of the emperors Aurelian and Severina (270-75), Tacitus (275-6), Florian (276), Probus (276-82), the family of Carus (282-4), Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (286-310).

The huge number of coins of the British emperor Carausius (287-.93) was very exciting. In Layer 16 (just over half-way down the pot) there was a large concentration of coins of Carausius. So far 766 of his coins have been identified, but once all the illegible coins have been cleaned this number will probably rise and there may well be over 800 of his coins in the hoard, making this the largest group of his coins ever found in Britain. Most surprising, however, is that amongst the Carausian coins were five silver *denarii* (all different reverse types). These are coins not normally found in hoards and are generally rare. Furthermore, they were in perfect condition – suggesting that they had barely been in general circulation before joining the hoard.

At present the coins of Carausius (286-93) are the latest in the hoard, although it is not impossible that there is a later coin among the 8,258 coins that still need to be conserved before they can be identified. At present, no coins of his henchman (and then assassin), Allectus (293-6) have been identified. So on present evidence it would seem that the hoard was buried around AD 293, a very precise date.

Determining the exact number of coins in the hoard is easier said than done! There are several lumps of corroded coins, in some cases coins were fused together, and there were a number of fragments. However, at the present total of 52,503, the breakdown is:

<b>Central Empire</b>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Total</i>
Valerian & Gallienus (joint reign)	253-60	46
Gallienus (sole reign)	260-8	6,091
Salonina (wife of Gallienus)	260-8	404
Claudius II	268-70	5,421
Divus Claudius	270-1	1,227
Quintillus	270	333
Aurelian	270-5	266
Severina (wife of Aurelian)	270-5	13
Tacitus	275-6	252
Florian	276	10
Probus	276-82	619
Carus	282-3	8
Divus Carus	283	5
Magnia Urbica (wife of Carus)	283-5	2
Numerian	282-4	12
Carinus	283-5	19
Diocletian	284-305	38
Maximian	286-305	22
<b>Total, Central Empire</b>		<b>14,788</b>
<b>Gallic Empire</b>		
Postumus	260-9	256
Laelian	269	4
Marius	269	35
Victorinus	269-71	7,490



Divus Victorinus	271	14
Tetricus I	271-4	12,416
Tetricus II	272-4	5,203
Gallic Empire, uncertain		2,954
<b>Total, Gallic Empire</b>		<b>28,377</b>
<b>British Empire</b>		
Carausius	286-93	766
Contemporary copies		314
<b>Total, identifiable coins</b>		<b>44,245</b>
Illegible coins		8,258
<b>Total</b>		<b>52,503</b>

Carausius, it was said, was ‘of very low birth’, one of the Menapii who lived in Holland or Belgium, and that he rose through the ranks of the Roman army, becoming a General under the emperor Maximian (AD 286-305). He apparently played a major role in bringing order back to Gaul after serious barbarian invasions and internal revolts. He was entrusted with command of the Roman fleet in the English Channel and North Sea so as to counter Saxon and Frankish raiders. We are told that he waited for the barbarians to sail away laden with booty before intercepting them; having taken back the loot, however, he did not return it to its rightful owners. This might just be a libellous story told by his

enemies, but whatever the truth, it is clear that he was sentenced to execution by the emperor Maximian and revolted.

Carausius was probably declared emperor at Rouen (*Rotomagus*) on the north French coast. A small, but significant, number of coins in gold and bronze were struck here at the start of his reign. He appears to have maintained control of northern France for most or all of his reign. However, his main base was to be Britain. One silver denarius from the Frome hoard shows Britannia receiving Carausius with a quotation taken from Virgil's *Aeneid*, 'O come, long-awaited one' (*Expectate Veni*). Another denarius shows his 'arrival' (Adventus), probably at London, which was to become his capital. In fact, most of our material evidence for Carausius comes from his coins, there only being one other object that bears his name, a milestone found near Carlisle. The majority of Carausius' coins were struck in Britain, at London and another mint marked C or G. There has been debate for many years about where the 'C' mint was located - Colchester, *Clausentum* (Bitterne, near Southampton) and Gloucester (*Glevum*) have all been suggested - but the study of coin finds still does not present a clear answer.

Carausius undoubtedly had the support of the fleet and army of Britain. One of his coins declares his close ties to his military. It is highly likely that his forces made extensive use of the Saxon Shore Forts, which had been constructed in the decade or so earlier. The purpose of these forts is disputed, but they were probably built to house sailors and marines for the fleet, and also as bases to stockpile food and other items for export to the Continent. There were 11 of them that ran from Brancaster in Norfolk round the coast as far as Portchester in Hampshire.

Furthermore, Carausius was keen to promote himself as a *bona fide* Roman emperor – one of the silver denarii from the Frome hoard shows

Romulus and Remus being suckled by the wolf, while he also celebrated consulships. Guy de la Bédoyère has convincingly argued that the letters RSR in the exergue of the coin are thought to stand for ‘*redeunt saturnia regna*’. He also argues that a rare medallion of Carausius in the British Museum, which has the letters, I.N.P.C.D.A. probably means ‘*iam nova progenies caelo demittitur alto*’. These two inscriptions combine to provide two consecutive lines from Virgil’s *Eclogues*, and translate as ‘The Golden Age returns, now a new generation comes down from heaven above.’ Carausius is the only Roman emperor ever to quote classical Roman authors on his coins.

We know that Carausius was able to repel an invasion by the emperor Maximian in 288 or 289. In fact, this appears to be the first time that a British navy was used to defend our shores. After this Carausius felt confident enough to present himself as an equal partner with Diocletian and Maximian, although they never recognised him. However, Carausius was not able to defend himself against his finance minister, Allectus, who assassinated him in 293. We do not know the reason for the coup, but Allectus was able to rule in Britain for up to three years before the junior emperor (Caesar) Constantius Chlorus finally re-conquered the island.

Not only do the five silver *denarii* and around 800 base radiate coins constitute the largest ever group of Carausian coins found, they also contain new varieties never seen before, providing more evidence for Britain’s ‘forgotten emperor’.

While the Frome hoard is the largest hoard ever found in a single pottery container in Britain and the second largest hoard of any period, hoards of radiate coins buried between 253 and 296 are extremely common in Britain: nearly 600 hoards are known, a greater concentration

than anywhere else in the Roman Empire. Some of these hoards can be very large: the Cunetio hoard, found near Marlborough in Wiltshire in 1978, had slightly more coins than Frome, 54,951, but it was found in two containers. The Cunetio hoard closed with coins of Tetricus I (271-4) and was buried about twenty years earlier than Frome. Another huge hoard of this period with 47,912 coins in a single pot was found at Normanby in Lincolnshire in 1985. Like Frome, its latest coins were of Carausius and it had 69 coins from the earliest issues of his reign and so it may have been buried about five years before the Frome hoard. The next largest hoard, found at Blackmoor in Hampshire in 1873, had 29,802 coins and closed with issues of Carausius's successor Allectus (AD 293-6): its burial may be connected with Constantius' recovery of Britain in 296. Most hoards of this period are, however, much smaller, such as the Chalgrove hoard which had 4,957 coins, including an extremely rare coin (only the second example known, now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford) of Domitian of Gaul. As may be inferred from the large number of coins recovered from hoards, huge numbers of coins were being struck at this period. The radiate, which by about AD 270 was a coin of almost pure copper, was the only coin being issued (apart from very limited issues of gold coins), and the Roman State issued it in great quantities. According to one estimate it is possible that under Victorinus and Tetricus the Gallic Empire was making around five to six million coins a week. This is production on a vast scale which was not equalled until the introduction of mechanical coin striking in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The high number of coin hoards of this period from Britain has long puzzled scholars. Traditionally it is assumed that the hoards of coins and other valuables were buried by their owners because they were concerned about the threat of invasion (on the western side of Britain

from raiders from Ireland, or on the east from Saxons from Germany) and they buried their wealth in the ground with the intention of later recovering it in more peaceful times. An example of this is graphically described by Samuel Pepys in his *Diary*. Deeply worried by the Dutch raids on the Medway and Thames in June 1667, he took all the gold coins he could lay his hands on in London (£2,300 worth) and sent his wife and servant to bury them on the family estate in Brampton, Northamptonshire. In October, when the threat had past, he went back to retrieve them but had great difficulty finding where his wife had hidden the coins and, even after a great deal of digging, ended up £20-£30 short of the amount that had been buried.

Doubtless many hoards were buried in circumstances like this in Roman Britain and were recovered by their owners so that no trace of them survives today. On this model, we assume that the hoards found today are those which were not recovered by their owners – perhaps because they had been killed or because they had fled from Britain never to return. One problem with this picture is that the archaeological evidence shows that the late 3rd century was generally a time of peace and prosperity in Britain. Although the populations in towns seem to be declining, many villas were being built in the countryside or expanded with luxurious new mosaics at this time. There is little evidence for barbarian raids on the province – in contrast, for example, to northern France at this time.

The Frome hoard calls the traditional interpretation of hoarding into question. If the original owners of this hoard had intended to come back and recover it later then surely they would have buried their coins in smaller containers which would have been easier to recover. The only way anyone could have recovered this hoard would have been by them

breaking the pot and scooping the coins out of it, which would have been awkward. It was most likely that the person or persons who buried this hoard are likely to have put it in the ground without intending to come back and recover it. The hoard was found in an important agricultural area and it is possible that it was a sacrifice made to bring a good harvest, a successful breeding season or even clement weather.

One phenomenon which is being highlighted by the sheer range of metal finds being recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme is how common the ritual burial or deposition of metal was in the Bronze and Iron Ages. Maybe this tradition continued in Britain into the Roman period with coin hoards? Britain has more hoards in proportion to its size than any other province in the Roman Empire. Was the hoard the possession of one person? Or was it the money of a wider community, each family or group contributing its share? This sort of question can only be answered by carrying out further work on the archaeological context of the find spot and by a thorough re-examination of coin hoards of this period.

The town of Frome is situated in the north-east of Somerset, close to the borders with Wiltshire and North Somerset. During the later third century the area around where the hoard was found would have been principally rural, with a dispersed population. The nearest towns were Shepton Mallet 14km to the west and the much larger Bath 23km to the north. Evidence of a large villa or settlement site was discovered by archaeologists a few miles away from the site of the hoard and may well have been occupied during this period. However, although these villas would have provided a focus for economic activity, the majority of the population probably lived in small scale agricultural settlements and the remains of a number of these have been discovered in the nearby area. A

road ran fairly close by the site, joining and crossing the Fosse Way just north of Shepton Mallet before continuing west beyond that towards the Mendip lead mines at Charterhouse and Priddy. In its easterly direction the road ran on to Old Sarum, where it connected with routes to the coast. It must therefore have provided an important means of trade and communication for those living in the area where the hoard was found.

However, the evidence that we have about the immediate area around the location of the hoard is fairly limited. The county's Historic Environment Record does not suggest any Roman activity on this particular site, although it does show that a hoard of 4th-century *siliquae* was discovered somewhere nearby in 1867. A survey undertaken by Geophysical Survey Bradford following the excavation of the hoard revealed little of significance, although Dave Crisp has reported 90 other Roman finds from the same parish, suggesting Roman activity in the vicinity of the hoard. Undoubtedly more work remains to be done on the context.

Both hoards (the *siliquae* hoard found on 9 April and the main hoard found 11 April) were declared Treasure on 22 July 2010 by Mr Tony Williams, H.M Coroner for East Somerset. Under the terms of the Treasure Act 1996 in law the hoards are the property of the Crown and in practice they are offered to interested museums to acquire. Somerset County Council Heritage Service had expressed an interest in acquiring both finds intact at an early stage and the next step was for the hoards to be valued at their full market value by the independent Treasure Valuation Committee. The Committee, whose members are appointed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport receive valuations from two expert members of the trade and give the finder and landowner and the Heritage Service the opportunity to comment on or they may

commission their own valuations. Once the valuation had been agreed by all parties, then the Heritage Service had up to four months to raise the money needed and the reward would be shared equally by Dave Crisp and the landowner. The valuation agreed was £320,000 and Somerset Heritage Service was able to acquire the two hoards for display at the opening of the new Museum of Somerset in 2011.

The project to conserve and study the hoard progressed alongside this. At present, over 11,000 coins cannot be identified at all and the coins need to be fully cleaned before any detailed study can be undertaken. It will be a year's work for a conservator to clean the whole hoard and the British Museum is working with Somerset County Council Heritage Service to seek funding for this (costing over £100,000).

Over the next couple of years, work will continue on a full catalogue of the hoard and its interpretation, including a reassessment of the two other very large hoards from Cunetio and Normanby. There is no doubt that the Frome hoard has many secrets still to reveal, both about itself and about its wider context.

[*The Frome Hoard*. By Sam Moorhead, Anna Booth and Roger Bland, is published by The British Museum Press, 2010. Paperback, £4.99. 48pp, illustrated in colour throughout.]

### **London Numismatic Club Meeting, 1 November 2011**

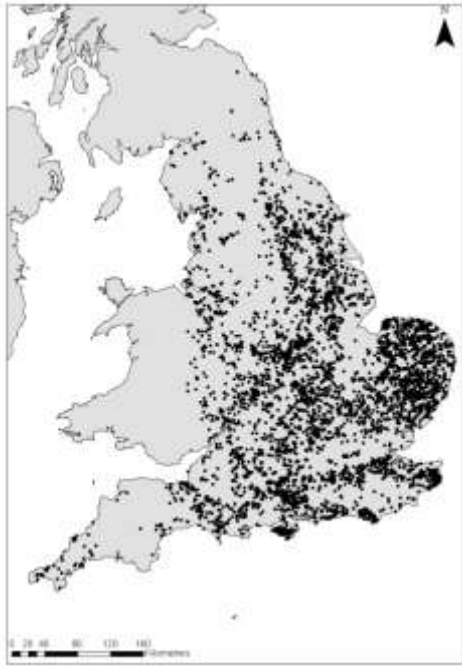
An appropriate follow-up to the Club's October talk was 'How the Portable Antiquities Scheme has revolutionised our understanding of Roman coins', by Sam Moorhead, National Advisor for Coins to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, The British Museum. Sam noted that much recent research, reflected in the number of PhD degrees based on evidence from the Portable Antiquities Scheme, has added considerably



to our knowledge. Not least, he was grateful to his colleague, Philippa Walton, for allowing him to incorporate some elements of her recent work in his presentation.

Between its inception in 1997 and the end of 2010, 108,621 Roman coins from England and Wales have been recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). In addition, 52,804 Roman coins from the Welsh corpus, compiled by Peter Guest and Nick Wells, have been added to the PAS database by Dan Pett. The majority of these coins can be categorised as site or stray finds rather than being from hoards. In recent years, there has been a major drive to encourage metal detector users to record all coins, not just precious metal and better preserved pieces (detectorists often refer to coins in poor condition as ‘grot’, but they still do have information value). As a result over 50,000 Roman coins have been added to the database in the last three years; this is very evident when comparing Figs 1 and 2, which illustrate the distribution of coins, recorded between 1997 and 2008, and 1997 and 2011. On the maps, one dot represents a site where a Roman coin has been found; some dots in outlying regions might only represent one coin; dots in areas of prolific loss can represent many hundreds. A system is being developed to separate hoard coins from single finds on the data base, and it is intended to construct a complementary database of Roman coins from Britain.

The coins recorded by the PAS offer an opportunity to study patterns of coin supply, circulation and loss at a truly national level, building on applied numismatic study undertaken by scholars such as Richard Reece and John Casey. For example, the mean values calculated using Roman coin data recorded by the PAS up until 2008 share a remarkable degree of similarity with Reece’s British Mean (Reece 1995) as illustrated by Fig. 3. However, there is some variation in values partic-



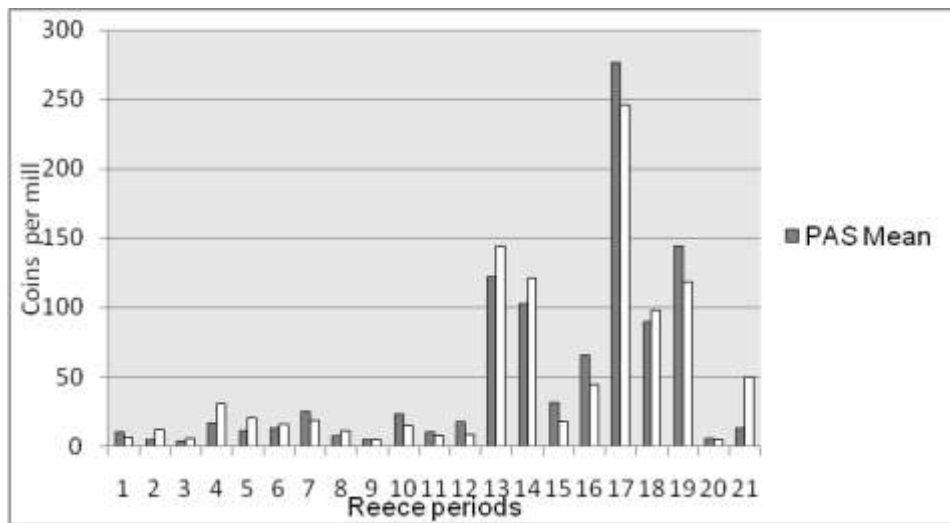
**Fig. 1.** The distribution of all coins recorded by the PAS between 1997 and 2000.



**Fig. 2.** The distribution of all coins recorded by the PAS between 1997 and 2011.

ularly in the fourth century AD where the PAS Mean exhibits higher *per mill* values than Reece's British Mean. This probably reflects the rural nature of the PAS dataset, as later coins are proportionally more common

on rural sites than urban or military ones.



**Fig. 3.** A comparison of the PAS Mean (sample size: 38,167 coins) and Reece's British Mean (sample size: c. 100,000 coins). From Walton (forthcoming).

### Reece Periods used in Fig. 3

<i>Reece no.</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Period</i>
1	pre-AD 41	Pre-Claudian
2	AD 41-54	Claudian
3	54-69	Neronian
4	69-96	Flavian
5	96-117	Trajanic
6	117-138	Hadrianic
7	138-161	Antonine I
8	161-180	Antonine II
9	180-192	Antonine III
10	193-222	Severus to Elagabalus
11	222-238	Later Severan
12	238-260	Gordian III to Valerian
13	260-275	Gallienus sole reign to Aurelian

14	275-296	Tacitus to Allectus
15	296-317	The Tetrarchy
16	317-330	Constantinian I
17	330-348	Constantinian II
18	348-364	Constantinian III
19	364-378	Valentinianic
20	378-388	Theodosian I
21	388-402	Theodosian II

The dataset also illustrates clearly how numismatic evidence can be used to investigate key research questions in the study of Roman Britain. Philippa Walton's PhD thesis reassesses several key moments in the history of the province including the Late Iron Age to early Roman transition, the late third century AD, and the late fourth century using PAS coin data as a starting point. Studies have also been undertaken on late Roman *siliquae* (Bland, Moorhead and Walton, forthcoming); Roman gold coins found in Britain (Bland and Lorient 2010), and Byzantine coins (Moorhead 2009). The PAS has also recorded many coins of importance to numismatic research and many of these have been published in the 'Coin Register' in the *British Numismatic Journal*.

### **The regional picture**

However, it is not just at a national level that PAS data can make an impact on research. It is increasingly clear that there were significant variations in the geographical distribution of particular types of material culture from Roman Britain, from nail cleaners to brooches. The PAS dataset shows that coinage shares in this pattern of regionality, with the volume of coins recorded varying substantially from region to region. Table 1 summarises the total number of Roman coins recorded for each English county. It highlights the fact that the majority of coins are found

to the south east of the Fosse Way and in a few outlying regions, such as Warwickshire, the East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire (a point discussed by Philippa Walton). The density of coin finds is also greatest in this region, notably in Suffolk and on the Isle of Wight. Table 1 also summarises the range in size of assemblages at a parish level within individual counties. It is notable that there are nine parishes with totals of more than 1000 coins and a further 225 parishes with more than 100 coins. Many of these large assemblages come from sites previously unknown to archaeologists.

County	Total No. of Coins	County area km <sup>2</sup>	Coins per km <sup>2</sup>	No. of Parishes with > 20 coins	20-49 coins	50-99 coins	100-499 coins	500-999 coins	1000 + coins
Avon	447	1333	0.335	34	1	1	1	0	0
Bedfordshire	1984	1235	1.606	48	8	2	6	1	0
Berkshire	1162	1262	0.920	38	4	0	0	1	0
Buckinghamshire	4971	1874	2.653	78	13	9	7	3	0
Cambridgeshire	3533	3389	1.042	67	10	12	8	1	0
Cheshire	582	2083	0.279	83	5	1	1	0	0
Cleveland	32	245	0.131	9	0	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	296	3565	0.083	37	2	0	1	0	0
Cumbria	775	6768	0.115	45	12	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	207	2625	0.031	41	0	2	0	0	0
Devonshire	449	6707	0.067	60	1	1	2	0	0
Dorset	1463	2653	0.551	78	7	7	2	0	0
Co Durham	1245	2226	0.559	17	0	1	0	0	1 <sup>1</sup>
East Yorkshire	6358	2480	2.564	44	12	6	12	1	1
East Sussex	1094	1792	0.610	40	9	4	1	0	0
Essex	2742	3670	0.747	128	14	7	6	0	0
Gloucestershire	1334	2653	0.503	59	8	4	4	0	0
Greater London	540	1580	0.342	29	5	2	1	0	0
Greater Manchester	35	1276	0.027	6	1	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	8356	3769	2.217	96	24	17	14	1	1
Herefordshire	324	2180	0.149	45	2	1	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	3760	1643	2.288	56	7	2	8	1	1

<sup>1</sup> A further 465 coins from a major site in Co Durham are included. These will be uploaded soon.

Isle of Wight	1290	380	3.395	13	5	4	2	1	0
Kent	3506	3736	0.938	142	15	6	8	1	0
Lancashire	123	3075	0.040	40	1	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	3155	2410	1.309	106	8	7	5	1	0
Lincolnshire	10544	5921	1.780	140	30	22	28	1	1
Merseyside	77	645	0.119	11	1	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	7913	5371	1.473	223	47	30	12	1	0
North East Lincs.	62	192	0.323	4	1	0	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire	1324	846	1.565	26	3	5	3	0	0
North Yorkshire	2445	8038	0.294	222	23	7	3	0	0
Northamptonshire	4862	2364	2.057	83	15	10	7	0	1
Northumberland	198	5013	0.039	21	1	0	1	0	0
Nottinghamshire	2736	2160	1.267	90	7	3	6	1	0
Oxfordshire	2758	2605	1.059	96	7	4	11	0	0
Rutland	84	394	0.213	13	1	0	0	0	0
Shropshire	329	3487	0.094	74	1	0	0	0	0
Somerset	1947	3451	0.564	72	8	10	3	0	0
South Yorkshire	145	1552	0.093	42	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	586	2713	0.216	53	3	2	1	0	0
Suffolk	15469	3801	4.069	163	51	31	23	4	2
Surrey	1666	1663	1.001	49	9	3	1	1 <sup>2</sup>	0
Warwickshire	4537	1975	2.297	74	11	9	2	0	0
West Midlands	35	902	0.039	11	0	0	0	0	0
West Sussex	1493	1991	0.749	61	7	3	6	0	0
West Yorkshire	276	2029	0.136	36	3	1	0	0	0
Wiltshire	4285	3485	1.22	100	14	9	8	0	1
Worcestershire	922	1741	0.529	58	9	4	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>114,456</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3161</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>

**Table 1. A summary of Roman coins recorded by the PAS from England by county and parish<sup>3</sup>**

**2. These 736 coins from an important Surrey site are about to be uploaded on to the data base.**

3. Table 1 uses data as of May 2011. There are some small hoards within the dataset which will be removed when more precise analysis is carried out; however, given the size of the dataset, they are unlikely to have a significant effect on the overall picture.

<sup>1</sup>These 736 coins from an important Surrey site are about to be uploaded on to the database.<sup>3</sup> Table 1 uses data as of May 4, 2011. There are some small hoards within the dataset that will be removed when more precise analysis is carried out; however, given the size of the dataset, they are unlikely to make an affect the overall picture presented significantly.

<sup>2</sup>These 736 coins from an important Surrey site are about to be uploaded on to the database.

<sup>3</sup> Table 1 uses data as of May 4, 2011. There are some small hoards within the dataset that will be removed when more precise analysis is carried out; however, given the size of the dataset, they are unlikely to make an affect the overall picture presented significantly.

## **Future Research**

The PAS Roman coin dataset represents an extremely important resource for understanding the development, distribution and chronological range of Roman settlement in Britain (Brindle, forthcoming). We urge anyone who is studying a region of Roman Britain, or is about to undertake archaeological fieldwork of a Romano-British site, to consult the PAS database. The PAS Roman coin dataset, together with other Roman finds recorded, can often provide more nuanced contextual information, than is available through Historic Environment Records. The number of Roman coins on the database will continue to grow and will provide an increasing amount of fresh information about Roman Britain in general.

We hope that it is a resource which more scholars will wish to use in the future.

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### **London Numismatic Club Meeting, 6 December 2011**

Tony Holmes, a Past-President of the Club, spoke on 'Coins of the Popes' Pope Benedict XVI made a visit to our country in September 2011 as a religious leader, though we were aware that he is the sovereign of the world's smallest state, Vatican City. Going back into history though, we find the popes ruling the Papal States with all that involves – including the issue of coins.

It is not very clear how this began. After the Roman Empire accepted Christianity under Constantine I in AD 313, the bishop of Rome, the Pope, ceased to be liable to martyrdom and became a figure of importance. When the Western Roman Empire collapsed, the popes remained in their bishopric, which was recovered by the Byzantine



emperor Justinian (527-565). . He installed governors who struck coins at the Rome mint. Italy soon relapsed into disorder and for lack of other government the popes seem to have started ruling and issuing coins.

The so-called ‘Senate’ - really now the municipal council of Rome – started issuing coins from the 12th to the 14th centuries. These were copies of the coins which circulated generally in Rome at the time, *deniers* of the Counts of Champagne made at Provins in France between 1125 and 1197. Hence the copies were called ‘provisini’. They are inscribed *Roma Caput Mundi – Senatus PQR* and the design - the *Peigne Champenois* or Champagne comb - is really a degenerated monogram. As higher value coins came into use, the Senate issued half *grossi* and influential people such as the Caetani, put their family name on them.

Gradually the popes began issuing coins again, starting in 1294. A slide showed a *piccolo*, or small penny, of Pope John XXII (1316-34), made at the Macerata mint near Fermo, in the Papal States. The rather puzzling DVS in the centre of the reverse is actually the ending of *Vicemisi Sec.Dvs* - ‘twenty-second’ - his title as Pope. He actually resided at Avignon.

Bl. Urban V (1362-70) returned from Avignon to Rome, and was able to restore communion with the Eastern emperor, John V Palaeologus (1341-7), but the emperor was unable to bring the Eastern Orthodox Church to unity as the Pope had hoped. In 1370 a revolt induced Urban to return to Avignon; Saint Bridget of Sweden told him he would soon die if he did, and this happened as she had predicted. Incidentally, the ‘Bl’ before his name means that his cause for canonisation as a saint has reached the second stage and he had been declared ‘blessed’, as Cardinal Newman was last year, but had not so far been declared a saint. After all

these years, indeed, it is not likely. A slide showed a *Bolognino* struck by this Pope – it is a type of coin associated originally with Bologna, though this one was made in Rome.

The next Pope, Gregory XI (1370-8), finally brought the papacy back to Rome in 1377, but Rome was so hostile that he was forced to live at Anagni while Milan was invading the Papal States.

Developing trade needed larger coins; a silver *grosso* was introduced at Avignon in 1344, this one being a Rome issue of Pius II (1458-64). He is better known as the great humanist Aeneas Sylvius Piccolomini, and he describes in his autobiography a journey to the Scottish Court. There is nothing the Scots like better, he said, than abuse of the English. He also noted that they dug a sulphurous rock out of the ground and used it for fuel. The common people stuff themselves with meat and fish, but eat bread only as a luxury.

The far-famed Sistine Chapel in the Vatican has that name because it was built by Pope Sixtus IV (1471-85), who made many other improvements to Rome - including the Sistine Bridge - and was a noted patron of artists. Although his personal life was strict, he was given to nepotism and his nephews involved him in the murky Italian politics of the time. His *grosso* shows his arms - an oak tree - and SS Peter and Paul.

Alexander VI (1492-1503) was one of the comparatively few bad popes. Pius II had already sharply reproved him for having a mistress but he paid no attention and as Pope gave land and offices to his illegitimate and half-Spanish children. One of these, Cesare Borgia, recovered much of the Papal States but involved his father in his immoral and violent life. He was, however, an able administrator who restored order in the Papal States, and a patron of the arts who commissioned Michelangelo to design the new St Peter's. His *grosso* depicts the Borgia bull on his arms.

A slide showed a little copper *piccolo*, used by ordinary people in everyday purchases. It was struck in the reign of Pope Julius II (1503-13). He was an able administrator, who recovered the papal possessions and restored its finances. However it was said that there was nothing of the priest about him except his dress! A typical Renaissance prince, he had had a mistress in his youth, played the political game as others did and led armies personally, in full armour, to recover his rights.

Julius II had renamed the *grosso* as the *giulio*, after himself, and a smaller silver coin was called a *grosso*. We saw a *giulio* of Clement VII (1523-34), with the Medici arms (six balls) and SS Peter and Paul on the reverse; the word 'Macer' shows that it was made in the Macerata mint. The German mercenaries of Charles V sacked Rome in 1527 and the Pope was besieged in the Castello Sant Angelo (which was originally the tomb of the emperor Hadrian). He refused to shave until released and coins from this period do show him with a beard! He was a patron of Raphael, Michelangelo and Cellini, but is remembered in England as having refused to declare Henry VIII's first marriage, to Katherine of Aragon, null and void, thus giving rise to the Church of England.

The next *giulio*, which has the Farnese arms and only St Paul on the reverse, was made by Pope Paul III (1534-49) - no doubt he was keen on St. Paul! He was the first pope who seriously set about reforming the Church and summoned the Council of Trent (1564) for this purpose. He also commissioned Michelangelo to paint the great Last Judgement, which we admire in the Sistine Chapel.

A little half *grosso* - at 0.8 grammes was much smaller than half a *giulio*. It was struck under St Pius V (1566-72). It introduces a type followed quite a lot thereafter, the head of Jesus, with the inscription *Ego Sum Lux Mundi*, or 'I am the light of the World'. Quick to implement the

decrees of the Council of Trent, he announced the news of the naval victory over the Turks at Lepanto the day it occurred (7 October 1571), long before any messenger could have brought the news. The Turks said that they could replace their fleet within a year, but in fact they never did regain control of the Mediterranean.

The *testone* (like our English testons, it means 'head') was introduced in 1545 by Paul III, as a still larger silver coin worth 3 *giuli* and weighing 10 grammes. We saw one of Gregory XIII (1572-85) with his arms but on the reverse a door marked MDLXXV. This is the fifth door of St Peter's, normally bricked up but opened by the Pope at the beginning of a Holy Year. These occur every quarter-century - so the Roman numerals show this was for the 1575 opening. 'Ancona' at the bottom is the mint. This Pope supported the education of the clergy and the Council of Trent, but was not perhaps so skilled in governing the Papal States.

A  $\frac{1}{2}$  *grosso* of Bl. Innocent XI (1676-89), depicts arms and the legend '*Nocet Minus*' - this means 'less is bad'. Is this a suggestion that this should be a minimum donation to the very poor? From this time the *grossi* and half-*grossi* often carry biblical texts or charitable exhortations. This Pope reformed the coinage in line with the higher price of silver and put the state finances on a sound footing. He was a man of high reputation, keen on reform. Louis XIV of France seized the papal city of Avignon in 1688 and the Pope lacked any sufficient support to resist.

When a Pope died the cardinals had to assemble and elect a new one who had to have a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. In the meantime the *Camerlengo* (chamberlain) of the cardinals kept the routine of government going and was entitled to strike coins if he thought it necessary. The vacancy in 1691 proved particularly tricky, with the

French and German (imperial) cardinals blocking each other's recommendations for five months! A *sede vacante* (vacant seat) *grosso*, with the arms of Cardinal Paluzzo Paluzzi-Altieri, the *Camerlengo*, has his cardinal's hat instead of the papal tiara. Eventually street demonstrations in Rome (and the increasing heat of a Roman July) forced the cardinals to a compromise.

The Pope they elected was Innocent XII (1691-1700), a devout and charitable man who cut his expenditure to the bone and did a great deal for the poor, even allowing those unfit for work to live in the Lateran Palace - "these are my nephews" he said, and he enacted strict decrees to prevent any nepotism in the future. A silver  $\frac{1}{2}$  *piastre* of his reign was worth  $5\frac{1}{4}$  *guili*, with his portrait and the Church, represented as sitting on clouds holding a cross and a church building. The full *piastre* is a crown-sized coin associated with international trade.

A silver *grosso* of Benedict XIV (1740-58) is inscribed on the reverse '*Pauperi Porrige Manum*' - 'stretch out your hand to the poor'. His election, at the end of a six-month conclave during which he had not been considered, came as a surprise, not least to himself! He was a really nice man, friendly and witty, prepared to be extremely flexible in order to establish good relations with the fiercely nationalist states of which Europe was composed, both Catholic and Protestant, though in this he did not always succeed. An affable and sympathetic man, at home he cut taxation by reducing the military forces and encouraged agriculture and trade; a man much like John XXIII, perhaps even more so.

A 60 *baiocchi* of Pope Pius VI (1775-99), with his arms, including a little face blowing flowers, ought to be a large silver coin - it is actually very base billon, almost pure copper, a sign of severe economic difficulties. Most of the Papal States had formed themselves into French-

supported republics, as the government lost its revenue and Pius himself 77 was arrested and spent the rest of his life in prison in France. A number of extra mints had been opened to strike copper or base billon coins. A copper 5 *baiocchi* of the same reign, from the new mint of San Severino had a portrait of the Virgin, but the ‘blots’ in the striking show that the die was on the point of shattering and would not have been used in any reputable mint!

Napoleon made Rome also into a republic with coinage very similar to that of the early French Republic. The copper 1 *baioccho* shows a cap of liberty on an axe and fasces; when they have dates at all they are in the French Republican calendar, starting at year 6. After a year the Republic was overthrown and Pope Pius VII elected. A copper *baioccho* of 1801, with his arms and the value on the reverse, commemorates his taking possession of St John Lateran, which is actually the cathedral of Rome. St Peter’s is not a cathedral but a basilica, though it serves as the mother-church of Catholics throughout the world. The coin creates confusion by describing St John Lateran as a basilica - it is, but it is a cathedral as well. Pius was a man of liberal sympathies who with great skill, courage and patience managed to extricate the Papal States from the Napoleonic wars, though he himself was detained in France for six years.

Pope Gregory XVI (1831-46) reformed the coinage and his post-reform silver 20 *baiocchi* of 1840, with his bust and the value, shows that the coinage has entered the modern world. This Pope took special interest in the development of Catholicism in Britain and the USA.

Pope Pius IX (1846-78) was initially a liberal and immediately granted a Constitution to the Papal States, but a violent revolution followed in which the prime minister was lynched on the steps of the Parliament House and the Pope exiled in favour of the Second Roman

Republic. He was restored, but the experience had made him less sympathetic to liberal ideas. A pair of coins of the Second Republic look rather similar at first - one is a billion 8 *baiocchi*, containing some silver, while the word *baioccho* in the singular shows that the other is a copper 1 *baioccho* crudely altered to pass as an 8. Although France restored the Pope in 1850, his possessions, apart from Rome, were annexed by Italy in 1860 and in 1870 Rome was taken as well. Pius became the 'prisoner of the Vatican' and issued no more coins. This situation continued with various popes till Pius IX (1846-78) agreed the 1870 Lateran Treaty with Italy (ruled at the time by Mussolini). The Treaty allowed the Pope to have sovereignty over an area of 108 acres, now called Vatican City, the smallest sovereign state in the world. This protected the independence of the Pope. A nickel 2 *lira* of 1931 shows the Good Shepherd and the pope's arms. Although there are coins dated 1929 and 1930, these were actually made in 1931, the first year of renewed minting.

An aluminium 10 *lira* of Pope Pius XII (1958-63) shows the bust of the pope, while on the reverse he is seen as he opens the Holy Door at the beginning of the 1950 Holy Year, and kneels before entering. Another major event, the opening of the Second Vatican Council, is celebrated by a coin on which the bust of Pope John XXIII (1963-68), is paired with the Dove of the Holy Spirit.

The 100 *lira* of Paul VI (1963-78) is in stainless steel, the bust of the Pope is paired with an unexpected shape - it is the miraculous draught of fishes, crowding the net.

The reign of Pope John Paul I lasted only 34 days, which did not give time for coinage, but one issue, a silver 1000 *lira* with his bust and arms, commemorated him. He died in bed reading some papers.

The election of Pope John Paul II, the Polish pope, was the first

election of a non-Italian for some 400 years. His indefatigable journeys made a new mark for the papacy. Numismatically he introduced the bimetallic type now used in many countries. A bimetallic 500 *lira* of 1992 has a rather curious reverse which depicts food held in two hands.

The Vatican coinage is at par with that of Italy and when Italy joined the European Monetary Union the Vatican did too. It duly produced a set of coins conforming to euro currency specifications, but very few were made and they command high prices. Personally I wish they had decided to issue substantial numbers - I'm sure they would be taken up as souvenirs and collectors' items the world over!

## **CLUB AUCTION RESULTS**

**by Anthony Gilbert**

### **116th Club Auction 10 May 2011**

The Auction was held at the Warburg Institute, WC1, at 6.30pm. Eighteen members were present to bid on 83 lots on the table (lot 12 had not been forwarded), which had been offered by six member vendors. As usual in these Club auctions, there was a good cross-section of collecting themes and areas represented.

David Powell, the Auction organiser, took the hammer. Twelve lots failed to attract any bids, but the total sales were a worthwhile £435.50, with the Club receiving 10% of that in commission.

The first half of the auction did not see much interest from the floor, with lots either not selling or being knocked down either at or just above their reserve price. The second half witnessed a transformation with much more spirited bidding from the floor, and with several lots attracting four bidders. The last 40 lots contained only two 'not sold'. The highest price on the evening was £22 for lot 82, a Dutch East Indies 'Bonk' stuiver that went to a specialist collector of the series against a



reserve of £5. The second highest price fetched was £19 for lot 59, a 17th century farthing token of W. Burman in Fetter Lane, Fleet Street (Williamson 1003), and this was against a reserve of £15. Lot 77, a follis of Diocletian attributed to the London mint (i.e. struck under Carausius) went for £18 against a reserve of £10. Lot 26, an 1822 silver 25-sous of Mauritius, fetched £10 against a reserve of £4. Lots 36 and 37, each comprising ten all different assorted banknotes gave value. The successful bidders for these two lots each paid only £1 against no reserve! A surprise was the interest shown in lot 43, a small American paperback on 'lucky' coins, tokens and medals. This item attracted several bidders and went for £6 against a reserve of £3.

No great sums were involved at this auction, but the pace hotted up considerably after a slow start, and this helped to make the evening's event enjoyable. The Club must thank David Powell for organising and running the auction, and also those members who supported the evening by submitting lots. The success of the auction depends first, on members submitting enough lots and for them to be of varied interest and price range and secondly, for enough members to take an interest and attend the auction. It is a good evening and Club's funds benefit from it, as well as the successful bidders.

## **OBITUARY**

### **EILEEN ATKINSON (1931 – 2010)**

Eileen Margaret Atkinson was born on 14 September 1931, the daughter of a High Court Judge who was to preside over the Moors Murder Trials. She had a younger brother and sister, Ian and Patricia. She won a scholarship to Harrogate Ladies College, would never have anything to

do with sport yet became Head of House, Head of Choir and Head of School. Attending King's College, London, her degree was in Household and Social Science - she had intended to become a Hospital Almoner, but a secretarial course in Oxford led her instead to work for the Chancellor of Oxford University. From there she went to be Parish Secretary at St Stephen's, Rochester Row, London, before moving to the 'laundries/wash houses' at Lambeth Palace which, contrary to their name, meant that she was working for the equivalent of the Church Foreign Office. This shaped her lifelong interest in church affairs in Britain and beyond. She also worked for a while for the Conservative Research Department in London.

It was whilst living in London that she joined the London Numismatic Club and was a dedicated attender at meetings. She formed a coin collection and her love of birds underscored her collecting interest of birds on coins, of which she had a profound knowledge. She spoke on the subject on several occasions to the Club and often exhibited some of her coins in support of her talks.

Eileen decided to move to Edinburgh but never lost her interest in coins and remained a long distance member of the Club, often corresponding with various members. In Edinburgh she worked for the Conservative Association for a while but moved back to work for the church as Applied Bookkeeper at the Episcopal Church Synod Office. Eileen had a talent for detail and a prodigious memory and an enthusiasm for organising, cross-referencing (particularly seen in her annotated copies of Dorothy L. Sayers's Lord Peter Wimsey detective novels), and for knowledge in general which was, again, reflected in her numismatic interests.

Eileen's gift was for enthusiasm and friendship, making friends,

keeping friends, enjoying friends (notably those met on ACE tours which she particularly enjoyed), and making friends of her family too. She died on 31 December 2010.

[Based, with thanks, on a memoir supplied by Eileen's brother, the Revd Ian Atkinson.]

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

*Roman Coins and Their Values. IV. The Tetrarchies and the Rise of the House of Constantine, AD 284-337. The Collapse of Paganism and the Triumph of Christianity, Diocletian to Constantine I, AD 284-337.* David R. Sear. 552ppp, frontis, 1 map, illus throughout. Spink, 2011. Hardback, £45.

The original edition of David Sear's book, *Roman Coins and Their Values*, was published by Seaby in 1964, a single volume of a mere 288 pages including a number of line drawings of coins by Peter Seaby, and with eight plates of photographs of coins by Frank Purvey, priced at 30s. It had been preceded ten years before by H. A. ("Bert") Seaby's book of the same title, 130 pages and five plates of coins from casts (as was the norm then). This was itself based on Gilbert Askew's *Catalogue of Roman Coins*, 126 pages, of 1948. A revised edition of the 1964 edition appeared in 1970, and the 3rd revised edition in 1981, still with the same 12 plates as 1981 grouped at the back, but with the in text line drawings now replaced by photos of actual coins by the present reviewer.

David Sear (apart from his many other publications on Greek coins, Byzantine coins, etc) had always hankered after producing an as full as possible listing of Roman coins, and this came to fruition with 'The Millennium Edition' of *RCTV* Volume I, published by Spink in

2000, covering the Republic to the Twelve Caesars. Now the book was 532 pages with many coin photographs in the text, listing and detailed preliminary matter, and introductions to each reign. Volume II, covering AD 96-235, Nerva to the Severans, followed in 2002, and Volume III, AD 235-285, Maximinus to Carinus, in 2005. For the convenience of readers, and purchasers with an interest only in the period covered by individual volumes, the preliminary matter (listed below) has been repeated in each volume.

With the publication of Volume IV, David Sear is now 4/5ths of the way through the immense task he set himself over a decade ago. After a detailed Introduction, there follows a Glossary, Legend Abbreviations, The Denominations of Roman Coinage, The Reverse Types of the Imperial Coinage, Roman Mints, Mints and Mint Marks, and Dating Roman Imperial Coins. All this detailed explanation alone is an invaluable introduction to the Imperial series and its many aspects.

Although the chronological period covered of just 51 years may appear short, it is a period that sees major changes in the Roman coinage. With Diocletian's accession in 284 the next 20 years of his reign were ground breaking as he tried through comprehensive reforms in the coinage to introduce radical changes in many aspects of the Empire's administration and finance. Ten years into his reign, in 294, his coinage reforms swept away the last remnants of a currency system by then 300 years old. A new silver coin, the argenteus, struck at 1/96th of a pound, appears and a new large billon piece (the follis), and the aureus is retarified at 1/60th to a pound of gold (under Caracalla it had been 1/50th). The background to all this is complex stuff that is set out in the introductory remarks to the reign. This is but one of the great values of the book as each emperor's reign is preceded by detailed historical

information with especial relation to the coinage. It is under Diocletian that the concept of the Tetrarchy is introduced, splitting the Empire into two, with two Augusti supported by two Caesars (designated heirs), ruling East and West.

Under each emperor (or family member in whose name coins were issued) the coins are listed in descending order of their Roman monetary value: aureus, half aureus (quinarius), silver argenteus, half argenteus, and billon antoninianus (and this became the billon follis after Diocletian's 294 reform). The detail of the listing not only far exceeds the usual classic references in Cohen but also has individual comments on pieces where appropriate. The Alexandrian coinage of Roman Egypt is also listed in some detail when issued. With Diocletian the post-abdication coinage of 305 is also listed. Valuations are given in VF and EF in £s sterling and \$USs. It is very instructive to compare the differences in value that are revealed by comparison of condition – an EF example of a common coin can far exceed its basic value in even VF condition, let alone lower such as F. It is this detailed comparative listing that is just one of the many inestimable elements of the book.

The small bronze coinage so prevalent after the Tetrarchy under the House of Constantine has always been a problem to collectors, as well as to more advanced numismatists. Carson, Hill and Kent in their *Late Roman Bronze Coinage (LRBC, 1978)* approached the problem by listing and sorting the coins by mints, which is numismatically admirable but quite difficult to use as the general user still goes by emperor. By listing the coins in “the old way”, i.e. under emperor/issuer and then alphabetically by reverse legend under each denomination makes identification and location so much easier. The number of the basic issues of the bronze coinage, listed together with the small identifying changes

within individual types, is a godsend, and will be very welcome to collectors in sorting out these coins. Often they occur in such good condition, generally when coming from large hoards, that the uninitiated cannot believe that they are genuine. The other side of the coin (bad pun!) is that so many metal detector finds are in very bad condition (affectionally referred to as “grot”), that they can now be reasonably identified via the detailed listing with some degree of certainty.

Apart from the invaluable detailed listing of the Diocletianic and Constantinian issues, mention must be made of the fuller lists presented of the coinage of the usurper emperors Carausius and Allectus. Volume V of David Sear’s *Roman Silver Coins* (1987) included an important listing of these two emperors, but since then metal detector finds have considerably expanded the numbers of known types for silver denarii and bronze issues, as well as examples of the excessively rare gold aurei - even as recently as 2007 a new and unique example of a Carausius aureus (now in the British Museum) was found in Derbyshire. Only 25 gold coins of Carausius are known (six are in the British Museum), and *RCTV* here lists 15 of the types where the 1988 *RCTV* listed only one. The book concludes with a Bibliography and Index.

Volume V will complete the story of the Roman Imperial coinage down to the death of the eastern emperor Zeno in 491, and the set of five volumes will then comprise the most comprehensive catalogue of the series ever produced for the coin collector. They will be an invaluable reference work for anyone interested in or concerned with Roman coins, be they collectors, museum curators or metal detectorists – the four published volumes are already the most useful and constantly referred to quick references on the series for the coins and background information that puts them into context in the Empire.

*Peter A. Clayton*

*Sylloge of the Coins of the British Isles*. 61. *The Herbert Schneider Collection*, Vol.3. *Anglo-Gallic, Flemish and Brabantine Gold Coins 1330-1794*. Peter Woodhead. Spink & Son Ltd, 2011. xvi + 259pp. 39 colour plates. Hardback, £60.

This volume, no. 61 in the British Sylloge Project first mooted in the early 1950s, is dedicated the memory of Douglas Lidell (1920-2003) who was the driving force behind the idea of publishing the Schneider Collection, amassed over half a century, as part of the Sylloge. This is the third and final volume and it also includes an Addendum to vol. 2, listing an extra 13 English gold coins acquired since 2002. The previous volumes were: Sylloge 47. Schneider, Vol. 1. *English Gold Coins and Their Imitations 1257-1603* (1996); Sylloge 57. Schneider, Vol. 2. *English Gold Coins 1603 to the 20th Century* (2001).

The Preface gives the historical background to the collection, and also how wide the author spread his net in seeking expert and specialised assistance in compiling the book. The collection of coins described here is based largely on the acquisition of coins from the Edward Elias and the Duncan Beresford-Jones collections.

The historical background is especially important when read in conjunction with the following chapter on ‘The Reintroduction of Gold Coins into Western Europe in the Later Middle Ages’. The several systems of money and weight relationships are then covered in ‘Systems of Money’. The chapter ‘Hoards Containing Gold Coins’ lists only those hoards that contained gold coins of Aquitaine, the English kings of France, Flanders, Brabant, French regal and England. Some 270 hoards are listed, together with an Index. The following section lists provenances, which include auction sales, collections, dealers and hoards.

A full Bibliography with a Key to Abbreviations used is followed by a list of the French archaeological and historical journals cited in the list of hoards.

The catalogue itself presents 348 Anglo-Gallic coins, each illustrated in colour and fully described. The General Index is only to the introductory chapters in this volume. The art paper used for the book is ideal for presenting the high quality illustrations of the gold coins (something not always achieved in numismatic publications), with sharpness and clarity of the design and lettering on the coins rather than aiming solely at artistic beauty.

This volume marks the completion of a fine three-volume set that will be a valuable reference work for future studies. *Anthony Gilbert*

*Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles. 62. The Norweb Collection, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. Tokens of the British Isles 1575-1750. Part VIII. Middlesex and Uncertain Pieces.* R.H. Thompson and M.J. Dickinson. Spink & Son, 2011. cxv, 449pp, 68 b/w pls, folded map frontis. Hardback, £35.

The publication of volume eight of the Norweb Token Sylloge brings to a close the monumental task of cataloguing a collection of over 13,000 pieces that began with volume one in 1984, although Robert Thompson had already spent nine years on the project. Michael Dickinson joined Robert in this Herculean task with volume three in 1992. The volumes have varied in size as they follow an alphabetical sequence through the English counties, some being more prolific token issuers than others. The immediate companion to the present volume is number seven, which listed the tokens of the City of London (2007, Sylloge no. 59). Mrs Emery May Norweb had been interested in coins since about 1905 and



had a remarkable collection but it was the 17th century tokens that became a joint focus with her husband, The Honorable R. Henry Norweb. Together they acquired whole token collections with names that numismatically resonate: Ralph Nott, H. W. Taffs, William Longman, etc, as well actively adding pieces from the London auction rooms.

What had begun life as a possible check list against Williamson's *Trade Tokens issued in the Seventeenth Century* (2 vols, 1889-91), took on a new life in 1979 when the late Christopher Blunt suggested formal publication as volumes in the British Academy's Sylloge series – the rest, as they say, is history and eight splendid volumes later prove it.

To produce a Sylloge volume that included the City of London and the wider, what is nowadays Greater London, area would have been unwieldy, impossible and also very delaying. The present volume acts as a compact and useful complimentary companion which thus covers south of the Thames, the Surrey shore as well as the greater area to the north of Middlesex (which although often cited, actually is no longer a 'county' division).

The arrangement follows the usual format for the series with extensive introductory matter that includes notes on the arrangement with a valuable Concordance between Williamson or Dickinson's later revision listing to Norweb numbers by county sequence (some reattributed pieces) and London and Middlesex, and adds over 270 types not in Williamson. There is a Classified Index of types, Abbreviations with three subdivisions: General, Collectors and Dealers cited, and a full Bibliography.

The Preface and the Introduction is followed by an essay by Robert Thompson, 'At the Sign of the Plat: Andrew Welch, Draper, Chart-maker, and Token –issuer'. This really shows the benefit of research and

investigation as all the earlier writers had described the obverse type on the token as a breastplate, and identified Welch as an armourer. Nothing could be further from the truth. Welch, it turns out, was a cartographer in Shadwell, the word ‘plat’ in the 17th and 18th centuries actually referred to a sea-chest in which maps, or ‘plats’ would be kept. Pepys mentions a Nicholas Comberford (on 22 July 1663), ‘at the Sign of the Platt in Redcliffe’. There were apparently some 37 individuals concerned with a school of chart makers and who were members of the Drapers’ Company (and Nelson was a Draper). The essay is a masterpiece of detective work worthy of Hercule Poirot.

The fold-out frontispiece map of Chelsea by James Hamilton, surveyed in 1664 and continued to 1717, but not published until 1810, incorporates the obverse of Thomas Munden’s 1666 halfpenny (no. 9104), and is probably the earliest representation of a tradesman’s token on a map.

The arrangement of this catalogue cannot follow the norm of places A-Z within counties as in previous volumes so here the sequence is under metropolitan boroughs and parishes in inner Middlesex, and then alphabetically by the most specific locality relating to the token. The structure of the token entries are numbered in sequence from Volume VII, followed by weight, die axis, issuer’s name, date (or nd), denomination, type, references, and provenance. Many of the entries have extensive and valuable notes relating to the issuer, citations to various sources such as baptismal records, freedom entries, wills, etc., which fill out dimensions far beyond these small pieces of metal. Of the trades and professions recorded on the tokens, some are most strange where one would not have thought the trade merited a token issuer; they include oddities such as a Baconman, a Letter receiver, a Tripeman, and many others. The trade of

some, such as Andrew Welch in the Introduction, have only been teased out by careful research. A section is devoted to Uncertain Pieces where perhaps a locality has not been identified, or there is an unnamed locality with only a personal name on the piece, or simply initials. A short section deals with Later Forgeries and Fantasy Pieces that have slipped into the collection, and an Addenda notes a few additional pieces to be added to the listing in earlier volumes.

Following on from the catalogue itself and the plates are a series of indexes to Finds, Places of Issue, Trades and Other Descriptions, Issuers, and to Letters in Obverse and Reverse Types. These are the essential keys to the book and its use.

The detail in the book is quite incredible and it is the crowning volume to a remarkable series of eight focussed catalogues that will be a standard reference and forever known simply as ‘Norweb’.

*Peter A. Clayton*

***Lions, Ships and Angels. The Galata Guide to Identifying Coin-weights found in Britain.*** P & B.R. Withers. Galata Print Ltd, Llanfyllin, Powys, 2nd revised edition, 2011. 96pp., 570 col. photos, 50 line drawings. Hardback, £30.

When the first edition of this book was published in paperback in 1995 at £12 it broke new ground as a handy reference work to a field that many considered to be hardly numismatic mainstream. It was a slow starter selling as those interested confused it with its two years older, huge and expensive, ‘big brother’ *British Coin Weights*. Despite this, it was soon out of print and was a required reference book that was steadily gaining ground in several spheres of numismatic discipline. Sixteen years on it is now back in the numismatic world, substantially revised, expanded and

updated, and wearing an attractive and smart new hardback overcoat.

For a small format the book is amazing (almost a Tardis for what is packed into it) as it identifies the major types of British coin-weights from 1344 to 1843. It also identifies most foreign coin-weights likely to be found in Britain. The title is evocatively chosen as it embodies so much that is interesting and, indeed, charming about the designs on the weights. But, their essential purpose should not be forgotten, and here is where many numismatists collecting medieval coins forget that the coins, especially the precious metal ones, did need to be checked at times, especially when clipping was rife; also, foreign precious metal coins in the market place needed to be checked against their British counterparts. Coin-weights are an essential adjunct to any medieval coin collection as in their contemporary use they reflect on so many aspects of medieval life and economy. In the years since the first edition was published interest in and collecting coin weights has steadily increased, reflected in the substantial Mail Bid auction catalogues published by Howard and Frances Simmons, the Simmons and Simmons Gallery.

The Introduction gives a good and concise account of the history of coin-weights and how to identify them and the coins' names. After a section on coin-weight boxes the catalogue begins with Reverses (and Continental types), followed by British denominations. The section on Obverses lists types under various representational headings (including busts and heads for rulers), and also letters and numerals - the whole section is served by a detailed index. Particularly useful is the section on Continental types and a list of makers. Apothecaries' weights are noted and are not to be confused with coin-weights *per se*. There is a list of coins that are represented by weights, together with their denominations

found listed by reign; then follow major foreign coins by country and their issues with, importantly, their weights. This book, with its ready accessibility in layout and content, will be a godsend for anyone interested in medieval coinage and its adjuncts, and should be a major addition to the library of every collector, curator and metal detectorist – the answer to those infuriating questions, ‘what is it’, lie here to hand.

*Peter A. Clayton*

### **NUMISMATIC QUIZ – The answers**

1. Lydia, Lydians
2. Silver groat and silver sixpence
3. Touch piece
4. Seven shillings; George II (2)
5. Nero, on reverse of a dupondius
6. Ptolemy IV of Egypt (221-204 BC), it is a moneyer’s mark between the legs of the eagle on the reverse of a large bronze coin
7. Scotland
8. Caracalla
9. The Parys Mine Company, Anglesey
10. A leek
11. 1672
12. Athens, Acragas, Syracuse (2)
13. Malta
14. A footless heraldic bird
15. Gold stater of Philip of Macedon – Apollo head obverse; charioteer reverse
16. James Watt
17. Athens
18. 1928

19. 1929, Martin Coles Harman (2)
20. Sir Winston Churchill on the 1965 crown (2)
21. Bermuda
22. The Wyons
23. Thomas Simon, 1663 (2)
24. John Roettier
25. 1279, Edward I (1272-1307) (2)
26. Left, he thought it was his better profile (2)
27. Cunobelin, Colchester (2)
28. They were all older than the monarchs they succeeded
29. Menander, king, 160-145 BC, and the poet, 341-290 BC
30. 753 BC
31. Charles I
32. Two daggers and the Cap of Liberty
33. For forgery, 1578 (2)
34. Reverses of half pence of George VI and Elizabeth II
35. Septimius Severus, 193-211
36. Philip Attwood
37. Edward VI, 1568 – MDXLVIII (2)
38. 3
39. Henry III (1216-72)
40. 33 (accept 2 either side; any queries see p. 459 of *Standard Catalogue*), Ian Rank-Broadley (2)

Possible total points for correct answers = 51



