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Contributions and information will be gratefully received. Items for the next issue should be sent to Richard Abdy or Richard Kelleher, Department of Coins and Medals,

British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG,

tel: 020 7323 8255/8640 fax: 020 7323 8171,

e-mail: rabdy@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk or

rkelleher@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk.

Anyone in the UK wishing to be added to the CCNB Newsletter mailing list should send their name and address to Richard Kelleher at the above address, or alternatively e-mail him at rkelleher@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk.

FOCUS ON COINS FROM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Over many years the contribution made by numismatic evidence to the narratives of myriad archaeological sites has been profound. The focus of this edition of the CCNB explores how coin evidence informs both individual site-specific stories and also our wider understanding of the function of currency across broader regions. Three recent excavation assemblages are discussed below.

BUTRINT, ALBANIA: THE COINS FROM THE MODERN EXCAVATIONS IN THE FORUM: PART I

It is rare for any modern excavation of the remains of a classical city to include significant portions of the forum-*agora* area. As the monumental centre of such cities, they have been extremely attractive to excavators and were invariably the first areas to be dug and cleared for display where such remains are unencumbered by modern development. By the 1960s and with the advent of modern archaeological techniques of context archaeology few *Fora* are now left that have not already been dug out using the unsatisfactory methods of the past. Butrint is a partial exception to this rule. In 1912 Albania was amongst the very last non-Turkish areas in Europe to leave the Ottoman Empire. The main excavations carried out in the era of 'spit' archaeology were by an Italian team during the inter-war period. The subsequent closed communist state of the notorious Enver Hoxha ruled out any hope of foreign excavation until the fall of the Iron Curtain towards the end of last century. Such disruption has meant that a very significant area of Butrint Forum has remained untouched and available for modern excavation techniques. With the most recent season major new areas of the Forum pavement were reached and cleared. (Whether it can remain in a cleared state for the future visitor remains in doubt due to the water table which has risen considerably since antiquity meaning the trench had to be constantly pumped out during the work.)



Aerial view of the site at Butrint (from www.Butrint.org)

The Forum-*Agora* was the hub of economic life in an ancient city. With the number of merchants and traders converging in this area we would expect to find the most intensive use of coinage. The general rules of coin loss would mean the more coins being exchanged the more are likely to be lost and pass into the archaeological record. The modern Forum excavations at Butrint carried out by the University of East Anglia's Department of World Archaeology and the Butrint Foundation (www.butrintfound.dial.pipex.com) have yielded 152 ancient plus 24 medieval coins up to the Ottoman period. In addition to trading, one of the known official activities in the *agora* was the testing of coin for forgery through the 'law of the *nomothetai*', for coin testing in the Athenian *agora*, 375/374 BC. This official activity seems apparent in Butrint by the discovery of an Alexander the Great type *tetradrachm* of the later fourth century BC, neatly cut in half with a chisel in just the manner described in the *nomothetai* law to put forgeries beyond use. The vast majority (all but eight) of the ancient coins from the Forum are base metal small change. This was known collectively in the Greek world as *kerma* or alternatively *lepton*, the latter name made familiar by the Bible in the Gospel story of the poor widow who swept her house out in order to find two such small coppers. In the Roman period Butrint stood at the crossroads of the eastern and western halves of the Empire. There are therefore coins that have come across from the west, the standard Roman Imperial base metal coinage, together with the local bronze small

change produced at Butrint itself and some other Roman Provincial (sometimes called Greek Imperial) specimens from elsewhere in the Eastern part of the Empire. There is also a large presence of Hellenistic *kerma* struck before the foundation of Butrint as a Roman colony in 44 BC.



View of the excavated forum pavement (note the high water table visible in the foreground)

Taking both Hellenistic and Roman bronze coinage together, nearly half of the identifiable specimens are local to the region of Epirus (which includes Butrint) or just opposite on the island of Corfu (ancient Corcyra). The larger groups present are in order: Epirus Republic, Corcyra, Butrint itself, and Apollonia. The picture is typical for material intended to facilitate the day-to-day low-level transactions in a local marketplace, evidence from elsewhere confirms the local character of small change circulation pools in the ancient world. Interestingly, although the local circulation shows strong links to Corcyra (ancient Corfu) clearly visible just across the straits from Butrint, this is not the case with Phoenike, Butrint's nearest neighbour on the landward side. Phoenike was the one-time capital of Epirus and positioned at the end of the channel whose entrance is straddled by Butrint, about a day's journey away overland. No fully identifiable coins of Phoenike have been found at Butrint. Indeed the feeling seems to be mutual – the author has been informed by his Albanian counterpart that Phoenike excavations have yet to yield any Butrint coins. Presumably cross-channel communication between Corcyra and the nearby mainland was direct and, given the proximity, shipping hardly needed to go via either of these cities.



Coin of Epirus found on the forum site

The forum at Butrint seems to have been laid out when the town became a Roman colony in 44 BC. Given the notorious residuality of coins in the archaeological record, how much of the pre-Roman bronze continued to be used in the Roman period? Sources such as RPC, the Roman Provincial Coinage – the main modern typological reference – see a gradual process of assimilation of the old Hellenistic bronze into the Roman system. In other words they came

to form a relationship to the Roman *denarius*. After all, very few Greek bronzes carry marks of value, leaving it up to local negotiation as to how many of what size would be exchangeable for a *denarius*. The archaeological context evidence from the Forum excavations suggests that the majority of the Hellenistic bronzes found were probably in circulation and lost during early Imperial times (1st century AD). Of the 30+ contexts with Hellenistic coins that the archaeologists have so far dated (e.g. with pottery), seven appear to be distinctly Hellenistic, while eleven seem to be from the time of the Roman Empire.



Bronze coin of Apollonia

So, how did existing Hellenistic coins – and for that matter the new Roman Provincial bronzes – relate to the *denarius*? RPC cites a number of possibilities for central Greece alone. It is clear that bronzes could be made to fit without much adjustment to the old Hellenistic tariff of 6 *obols* to a *drachma*. At Athens a 1/6th of a *denarius* denomination is mentioned in an inscription. Such a denomination would neither fit the Roman *sestertius* at 1/4 of a *denarius* nor a *dupondius* at 1/8th of a *denarius*. However it probably did not really matter as it was only the *denarius* itself that moved around the empire in significant quantity. An alternative is seen in epigraphy at Thessaly amongst other places. This expresses the relationship at eight *obols* to the *denarius*. Thus the common unit of Roman imperial bronze, the *as* at 1/16th of a *denarius*, would have been recognised as a *hemiobol*. However, it is also clear that *kerma* could be expressed in Roman denominations, particularly the *assarion*; also known as the *assarion Italikon* (Italian *as*). It was certainly the denominational system used at the Roman colony of Corinth and study of that coinage has led to the plausible suggestion that *colonia* including Butrint would probably have used Roman denominations for its local coinage as an expression of Romanitas.

For the Hellenistic and early Roman *kerma* at Butrint we see a familiar pattern of two denominations recognised in RPC as typical for central Greece: bronzes of around 19-21mm (5-7g) and a half-unit in the 15-17mm (3-4g) range. Comparable evidence with the denomination-marked 'Fleet' bronzes of Mark Antony, which were probably produced somewhere in Central Greece in the 30s BC, shows asses ranging between 23-17mm. It would seem plausible that the two main size groups of bronze coins at Butrint functioned as the *assarion* and the *hemiassarion*, equivalent to the Roman *as* and *semis*, regardless of what their original arrangements had been in Hellenistic times.

Some Hellenistic coins of a larger size than the *as/assarion* do appear in the archaeological record at Butrint, produced at the nearby mint of Apollonia. It has recently been compellingly postulated that the appearance of this larger bronze carrying the traditional Hellenistic designs of Apollonia was in fact produced in Roman times to represent a two-*assarion dupondius*. This was probably in the 30s BC to match the Roman bronze denominations of the triumviral period. Although the four-*as sestertius* was a common denomination and unit of account in the west, it is a rare denomination in the east during the early years of the Empire. The Greek version of the *Res*

Gestae of Augustus, for example, felt the need to convert sums of *sestertii* from the Latin text into *denaria*, presumably because societies in the Eastern Empire thought in terms of *assaria* and *denaria* and not *sestertii* and *denarii*.

Richard Abdy

COINS FROM THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROJECT IN POMPEII

As is entirely to be expected from a site of its nature, Pompeii has produced vast quantities of coins since the Bourbons first started exploring the city in the eighteenth century. There are about 13,000 coins in the Museo Archeologico Nazionale in Naples and many other pieces in private collections and museums around the world. Two categories of coin are found at Pompeii. The first category is what I term 'live coinage'. This is the numismatic material found on the bodies of those fleeing the eruption of Vesuvius in AD79. Naturally, these coins tend to be gold *aurei* or silver *denarii*, both of which were of high intrinsic value (and therefore attractive to those fleeing the city, even if they never got to use them – and who knows – may have survived if they hadn't been weighed down by them). In addition, the 'live' coinage includes groups of low value coins which were abandoned, for example the takings of a bakery on the Via d'Abbondanza, Pompeii's main street. Although Pompeii was frozen in time by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD79, which brought the life of the city abruptly to an end, it should be remembered that there was settlement on the site for many hundreds of years before this spectacularly destructive event. Earliest evidence comes from the eighth to seventh centuries BC, although the town itself did not really get going until about the fourth century BC. Coinage was being used from about the third century BC onwards, in parallel with the intensification of coin use across the whole Mediterranean region. Therefore the other category of coinage found at Pompeii is what I term 'dead coinage': these are coins which had fallen out of use, or had been accidentally dropped, deliberately discarded, or buried for later recovery and never recovered.

Returning to the 13,000 odd coins in Naples, these undoubtedly represent an extremely important assemblage of material, but many of them are only provenanced to the city, and it is not possible to say if they date to the time of the eruption or before, i.e. if they fall into the 'live' or 'dead' category. This greatly limits their usefulness in terms of understanding the economic life of the city. This is what I hope my research will help to do. I am fortunate enough to have a large assemblage of almost 1,500 coins, found during the excavation of a single insula block (VI, 1) of the city. The block, which is an unusual triangular shape, has been completely excavated down to the natural sub-soil, i.e. by digging through the floors of every room and outside areas where this has been possible. (There are still some *in situ* mosaic and *cocciopesto* floors which have been left untouched for obvious reasons). Unlike many assemblages from Pompeii, the assemblage I have been studying is extremely well provenanced: every coin has good contextual information regarding both its spatial position within the block and its stratigraphic position within the archaeological sequence.

What of the coins themselves? A large percentage are small module (c. 11-13mm) copper coins best described as 'pseudo-Ebusus' and 'pseudo-Massalia'. These make up well over half the identifiable assemblage. These pieces, which date to the late second to first century BC, are almost all locally produced copies of prototypes originating on Ebusus (modern Ibiza) in the Balearic Islands and the Greek colony of Massalia in southern France

(modern Marseilles). The 'pseudo-Ebusus' coins range from struck to cast types of varying degrees of competence. The majority have a figure of the Egyptian dwarf god Bes on both obverse and reverse with symbols in the field. More often than not Bes is reduced to a simple outline figure, and there are occasional variants, such as examples with a butting bull reverse. The latter provide a helpful link with the pseudo-Massalia coins which have a similar butting-bull reverse but the head of Apollo, Mercury or occasionally Mars on the other side. The second biggest category are coins of Roman Republican origin, mostly the Janus head/ship prow type, which date from the late third to early first century BC. These make up about 10% of the identified assemblage. There are almost equal numbers of cut coins of this type. Although most of these are halves, there are also a few quarters and possibly even smaller fractions. The assemblage also includes a small number of unusual types which come from all over the Mediterranean world, including Megara in central Greece, Cyrenaica, Libya, Judaea and less distant places such as Sicily, Bruttium and Paestum. More detailed information on my preliminary analysis of this assemblage was published in the *Numismatic Chronicle* in 2004.

Casting or digital photography?

There are two main difficulties which I've faced when studying the material at Pompeii. The first is that the coins are more often than not badly corroded. I've been fortunate in having a professional conservator who manually cleans the coins in the field, but even this does not necessarily mean that an accurate identification can be made. So a large proportion of the assemblage is put down as 'illegible'. The second difficulty is identifying all the coins which can be read or have some semblance of a design remaining. Because the coins come from all over the Mediterranean, the amount of reference material which I would ideally take into the field is impractical. I usually have RIC I and some photocopies of other useful works (such as RRC and *Historia Numorum* for Italy) and that's about it. It's simply not possible to carry any more. So a number of years ago, I started taking digital images of all the legible and semi-legible coins. These images are useful because they can be consulted at leisure. However there is a problem. Because virtually all the coins from the excavations are badly corroded, what tends to happen with the digital images is that a lot of detail of the corrosion products is picked up along with the useful details which might allow an identification to be made. Camera lenses are indiscriminate which is a big problem. Green discs also do not reproduce well in a publication: a lot of the minor detail, which would help other researchers to understand how I had reached an identification, is not easily visible, even if reproduced at high resolution.



This cast of a Pompeii coin demonstrates the benefits of casting. Although the coin itself is very corroded, when cast it is possible to make out the obverse, a horse head, right, and reverse, bull butting right. Neither of these designs were visible from either the piece itself or high resolution images

Because of these problems, it was suggested to me by Clive Stannard (independent numismatist) that it might be worthwhile taking casts. Not many people do this anymore, and casting coins is becoming a bit of a dying art. But it has proved to be invaluable: although plaster - I use a very fine dental plaster - picks up all the detail, including the corrosion products, just like a digital camera, it mimics the three-dimensional nature of the coin surface in a way that a standard camera cannot. This means that details which were not able to be distinguished from corrosion on either the real coin in the field or the digital image are suddenly clear. This has even led to the identification of new types, for example a type with a horse's head on the obverse and a figure of Bes on the reverse. In addition, casts can be scanned or photographed, and by adjusting the light levels in Photoshop, a clear image can be created which is suitably detailed for publication. Not only this, but because the coins themselves continue to corrode after excavation, the casts will provide an important resource in the future as a research collection. My intention is that the casts will eventually be passed to Coins and Medals at the British Museum. So my advice to everyone working on coinage in the field is to give serious consideration to making casts. I believe that if more people made casts, the amount of information which coin specialists and archaeologists could get out of from 'small change', the oil in the wheels of every ancient urban economy, would be greatly enhanced.

Richard Hobbs

THE CURRENCY OF MEDIEVAL GUERNSEY: EVIDENCE FROM THE LIHOU EXCAVATIONS

The coin finds recovered during excavations of the site of the Benedictine Priory of Notre Dame on Lihou, Guernsey, provide what is so far a unique and precious insight into the monetary history of Guernsey, and (by a reasonable extrapolation) the Channel Islands as a whole during the medieval period. The over 150 medieval coins recovered during excavations carried out by Heather Sebire and others in the late 1990s form an unrivalled body of evidence, several times the quantity of material otherwise recorded for this region. To them can be added six coins recovered also from Lihou in 1990. This Lihou material, supported by such other finds as there are (most notably the 27 medieval coins from the Castle Cornet excavations, published by Marion Archibald), and along with surviving documentary records, have provided us with an opportunity to reconstruct a regional monetary history previously either sketchily known, based on assumptions, or completely hidden.

Lihou is a small, windswept, and nowadays uninhabited tidal island just off western Guernsey. Despite its island status it has always been accessible by foot from the main island at certain times of the day. In the early to mid 12th century, the Priory was founded there as an offshoot of the great abbey of Mont Saint-Michel on the Normandy-Brittany border, which also, of course, had a similar island location, if on an immensely grander scale. The nature of the Lihou house is somewhat uncertain. It was built to a moderately impressive scale, reminiscent of its senior Guernsey house on the larger island, The Vale, but was not itself wealthy. The excavation revealed the extent of the site: the priory church itself, built in different phases, a range of domestic buildings for habitation, a garden area, a dovecote and a cemetery to the south of the church, and there were extensive fishponds beyond the shoreline. It is likely that the priory was occupied by a small body of monks with some servants, perhaps half a dozen people in all, who supervised Mont Saint-Michel's holdings on Lihou and the Guernsey coast opposite,

dedicated to the collection of revenues and staffed by only a couple of monks. In fact, in 1302 one of the monks, John de l'Espine, was murdered by John le Roer, servant of the prior, Nicholas Baddes, and the records of the case show that there were indeed only two monks in residence at that date.

Despite the priory's restricted circumstances as a monastic community, it would seem to have been a site of significant activity of some sort, as the coin finds bear witness: over five times as many medieval coins were lost there as at Castle Cornet, the main citadel and fortress of Guernsey. The coins were discovered all over the site, not concentrated in any particular spot. Maybe interments and/or other services at Lihou were occasions of some note and well-attended. Perhaps it had a fair, or was a minor pilgrimage site, or a regular calling-point for passing fishermen or merchants, or indeed all of these to some degree.

The currency of medieval Guernsey has been little known, largely because of an absence of significant find evidence. The traditional view has been that the Channel Isles' currency was normally that of the Norman mainland throughout the later middle ages. These finds, along with a few other excavation finds, and documentary sources, give us for the first time a more detailed look at Guernsey currency, and reveal it to be more varied and complicated than was imagined, with French, Breton, Gascon and Burgundian coinage all playing important roles at different times and in different political circumstances. Broadly, in the 12th and early 13th century the Lihou finds confirm that the currency of Guernsey was that of the mainland Angevin empire: deniers angevin and mansois, with some role for English pennies. But, after half a century or so of comfortably inhabiting the Angevin monetary world, things changed for Guernsey, when Normandy, Greater Anjou and Brittany were all lost in and after 1204 and Philip II of France's successes against King John.

The Lihou finds may reflect this period of disruption and transformation, though perhaps in an unexpected way. Coins from the site which do definitely belong to the first half of the 13th century include two deniers provinois of Thibaut IV, count of Champagne, whose coinage dominated the great fairs of Champagne, but are not normally to be found in western France. At some point in the middle decades of the 13th century, and possibly after an interlude with the use of provinois such as these, French regal coins took over as the local currency, and remained dominant for about a century. Thus, probably in the second quarter of the 13th century, tournois took over from the old angevin money, as new supplies of these ceased to be available. Actual tournois coin can only be seen emerging clearly as the normal currency in physical use at Lihou in the later 13th and early 14th centuries: the finds include one worn denier of Philip II and another of Louis IX, but there are five tournois coins of Philip III-IV from the 1280s-1300s, representing several denominations: a maille, two deniers, a double, and a fine-silver gros, and along with them is a contemporary denier parisis of Philip IV. From the early 14th century, there is one denier tournois of Philip VI, of the type issued from 1322. This pattern seems to hold true elsewhere in the Channel Islands, with two deniers tournois of Louis IX and two later regal deniers from Castle Cornet, and a denier tournois described as 'of Louis VIII or IX' being the earliest French regal coin of the period to come from Jersey, from an excavation in St Helier. These coins all presumably reflect the regular currency available in Normandy, now once more accessible and normal in the currency of the Channel Islands. With the onset of the Hundred Years War in the late 1330s, the currency situation seems to have again changed quite significantly. The Channel Islands were given a newly-enhanced military importance, indicated by the appointment of leading military figures of Edward III's reign to act as their governor. Their importance is also indicated by the capture and occupation of

Guernsey in 1338-40 by the French, who retained control of Castle Cornet until 1345, despite a constant siege. The Channel Islands were particularly important for England's operations in Brittany, a situation which may have had significant consequences for the currency.

At Lihou, are ducal coins from Brittany, generally of the types issued by the dukes to the *tournois* and *parisis* standards, these came to replace French regal *tournois* and the currency of Normandy: thus there would have been no need to alter the money of account in use. The only French regal coins found from the time of the Hundred Years War in the 14th century are a double *parisis* of Philip VI issued in 1350, a double *tournois* of John II, and a *denier parisis* from the 1380s. In contrast to these relatively slim pickings, there are 12 Breton coins, representing the coinage of the dukes running from the anonymous types of the early 14th century to John V in the early 15th. Finds of Breton coins from Castle Cornet and Mont Orgeuil on Jersey give useful support to the Guernsey evidence from elsewhere in the Channel Islands. Brittany may not have been the sole provider of Guernsey currency in this period, however, since its issues may have been supplemented by contemporary coins of English Gascony, as witnessed at Lihou by two *hardis* of Richard II and a *denier* of the Lancastrians: yet again there is some corroboration from elsewhere, in the shape of finds from Castle Cornet on Guernsey, and near Gorey Castle on Jersey.

In the course of the early 15th century the currency situation on Guernsey underwent yet another in this series of transformations, away from this monetarily unusual southward axis towards Brittany and Gascony, and becoming somewhat more complex. Breton coins were joined then overtaken by a mixture of coins from Lancastrian France and Burgundian Flanders – 14 coins of the latter were found on the site. With the expulsion of the English from France in the 1440s, French regal issues at last resumed their dominance on the mainland, and inevitably at Lihou also. However, as in the 13th century, there may possibly have been a time lag or transition period, during which older Lancastrian and current Flemish coins persisted in use rather later than on the mainland, given that the large-scale penetration by French regal coins appears to have begun only in the late 1460s. The Flemish finds conclude with a coin of Charles the Bold from the 1460s (this a Castle Cornet find), and there are 17 French coins of a single type, more than any other at the site by a long way, the *obol* or *maille tournois* of Louis XI. There are two other French regal issues of the later 15th century, the latest being a *denier tournois* of Charles VIII issued from 1483. Throughout the later middle ages a variety of other coins supplemented these broader trends: English, Gascon, Portuguese and Scottish.

Coin use at Lihou came to a sudden end in the early 16th century, when the dissolution of the monasteries ended the function of the site. There is an evident collapse of coin use and resultant cessation of coin loss on the Lihou site beginning in the early to mid 16th century. Coin use was then at a very modest scale until well into the 17th century, and even then it was minimal: contrast the meagre haul of four coins from Lihou with the over one hundred 17th century coins from Castle Cornet. By the end of the 1560s, Lihou's property had been secularised and remaining ecclesiastical incomes diverted into the diocese of Winchester (where the Channel Islands had been placed, after losing their ancient home in the bishopric of Coutances). The physical buildings had been empty for some time and Lihou island itself probably became uninhabited. With the end of a modest but apparently quite active priory, a monetary silence falls over Lihou, left as it was once more to the minimal occupancy it had had four centuries earlier. The Lihou Priory evidence can be supported by other sources, notably the excavations at Castle Cornet, which confirm much of the Lihou evidence. Gaps remain – there are no finds to illustrate the currency in use before the later 12th century,

and there is relatively little evidence for the high value coinage. Nevertheless, the Lihou site has enabled us to get an idea of the nature of currency in medieval Guernsey in a more than cursory way, and by extension the Channel Isles as a whole, in a way never before possible.

Barrie Cook

NEWS

XIV INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC CONGRESS GLASGOW 2009

It was agreed at the last Congress in Madrid in 2003 to hold the next one in Glasgow in 2009. Then 2009 was six years in the distant future but as always time flies and we are just under two years away from this important gathering of international numismatists, however, an Organising Committee has been meeting for some time now. The convenor is Donal Bateson of the Hunter Coin Cabinet, assisted as secretary by Sally-Anne Coupar, the Hunterian's Curator of Archaeology. The membership covers a diverse range of interests, institutions, and experience and includes Richard Abdy (British Museum), Ian Carradice (St. Andrews University), John Goddard (Hunterian Museum), Nick Holmes (National Museums of Scotland), Roddy Macpherson (Glasgow collector and Sheriff's Officer), and Keith Rutter (Edinburgh University). A Worldwide Congress Grant from the British Academy has recently allowed the appointment of Roslyn Chapman as an administrative assistant. Roslyn will be in the Hunterian in the afternoon Tuesday-Friday and will be the first point of contact for enquiries. She will be happy to advise and help.

The XIV Congress will be held from 31st August to 4th September 2009 at Glasgow University. Registration and the INC General Meeting will take place on Sunday 31st August. The opening ceremony will be held on the Monday morning and the academic programme will then run until the closing ceremony on Thursday 4th September. The call for papers will be made shortly. Both the Royal Numismatic Society and the British Numismatic have very generously agreed to host a joint reception on the Monday evening. Glasgow City Council has also agreed to provide a reception for delegates on the Tuesday evening. Financial help has been offered by the British Numismatic Trust. Further details and developments can be checked on the Congress website: www.hunterian.gla.ac.uk/inc-congress/ while contact can be made through email: congress@museum.gla.ac.uk.

We hope there will be a strong contingent of delegates from Britain to welcome our numerous overseas colleagues and friends and we forward to seeing all of you in Glasgow in 2009.

Donal Bateson

HUNTERIAN MUSEUM BICENTENARY

The Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery celebrates its bicentenary this year. Scotland's oldest public museum, at Glasgow University, opened its doors in 1807 on the arrival of William Hunter's collections, including his magnificent coin cabinet. A major refurbishment of the Museum has taken place. A large part of the new exhibition is devoted to William Hunter. His life, work, collections and achievements are explored in depth for the first time,

over three galleries, while the main hall covers the development of the Hunterian by a mixture of themes in natural history, archaeology and ethnography and other important collections donated after 1807. Limits to space and resources meant that a dedicated coin gallery could not be included but some 300 coins are displayed throughout. Hunter's Collections Gallery includes a section on his coin cabinet and such treasures as George III's Athenian gold stater, the outstanding example of Cleopatra's portrait and Abyssinian Bruce's Ptolemaic gold are retained. The ever popular set of portraits of the Roman emperors, all in gold, is also still to be seen.

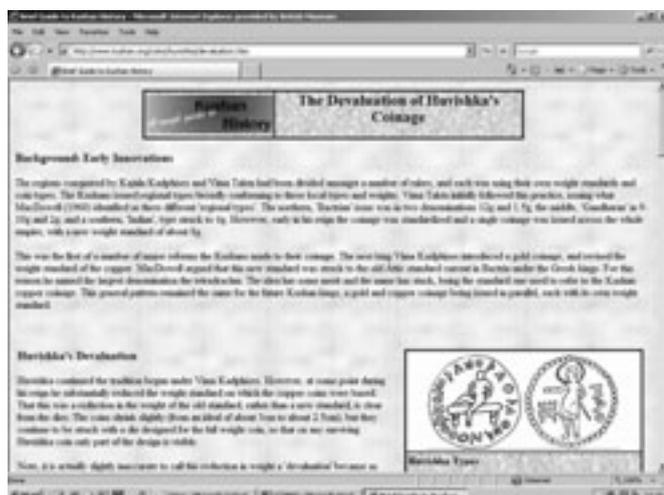
A temporary exhibition in the Hunterian Art Gallery deals with Hunter's paintings and his art connections. Included here are several coins and medals. This exhibition is accompanied by a detailed catalogue. A general history of the Hunterian, from Hunter's time to the present, has also been published.

Appropriately in June it was announced that the Hunterian was among the first group of museums in Scotland to be awarded Recognition status (as having collections of national significance). This covered the Hunterian collections as a whole. As a consequence of this the Museum was awarded a Recognition grant of £40,000 for a project entitled "RIII Realising Roman Resources". A component of this is the transfer of the published Roman coin records, with the addition of digitised images, to the Hunterian's database. Thus in a year's time all 17,000 Hunterian Roman imperial and provincial coins will be accessible on-line through the Museum's website. Finally, the British Academy has just published the second volume of the Hunterian's Roman provincial coinage. This large two-volume project was successfully undertaken by John Goddard, Honorary Research Fellow in Classical Coins in the Hunterian Museum. It is planned that the main collection of Greek coins will also be revised and updated for publication in the Academy's SNG series. Further information on the Hunterian can be found at: <http://www.hunterian.gla.ac.uk/>

Donal Bateson

A NEW APPOINTMENT AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Robert Bracey has recently joined the BM Coins and Medals Department to assist with the Kushan Coins Project. The project will include the publication of a new catalogue of the Kushan and Kushano-Sassanian coins in the museum. Robert is also the author of www.kushan.org which has provided a web-based forum for articles on general Kushan history since 2001.



MOVING FORWARD: CHANGING LANDSCAPES ON 19TH CENTURY BRITISH BANKNOTES, A NEW EXHIBITION AT THE BARBER INSTITUTE

From the mid 18th century Britain experienced dramatic socio-economic changes that greatly affected its landscape. Villages and small towns were transformed into prosperous cities and local as well as national pride was enhanced. Drawing on the extensive collections of the British Museum, this new exhibition explores the imagery of British provincial paper money to underline this changing landscape of Britain. With the Industrial Revolution and the Transatlantic Slave Trade as catalytic factors in the development of the British economy from the early 18th century onwards, the provinces saw great advances in industry, agriculture and shipping. Rural landscapes developed into industrial ones, agricultural production grew on a hitherto unprecedented scale and maritime towns became ports of international significance. People moved to the new industrial and agricultural centres. Canals and railways were built linking all major towns and, as a result, production and trade became quicker, easier and more profitable. The provincial economy boomed and grand architectural projects stood as testimony to local progress.

At the same time, private banks were established in order to promote local business, again showing local development. The paper money issued by these banks forms the core of this exhibition. Elaborate vignettes, some of which were made by well-known engravers such as Thomas Bewick or W H Lizars, create a visual narrative of this newly-founded provincial prosperity by using miniature views of industrial towns, ports, ploughed fields, bridges or elaborate buildings. At the same time, we look at how some local banks preferred to underline the sense of national pride by using a more universal imagery, namely the allegorical image of Britannia. Examples from several counties, and from Scotland and Ireland, reflect a sense of local and national glory. Simultaneously a more detailed examination of the cities of Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and others shows how technological advances influenced individual cities.

Artemis Manolopoulou

STUDIES IN EARLY MEDIEVAL COINAGE AT THE IMC 8th July 2008

The programme for the Early Medieval Coinage Symposium to be held as part of the Leeds International Medieval Congress has been agreed. SEMC@IMC will constitute a full day of sessions, extending the range of discussion beyond the early Anglo-Saxon coinage. As you will be aware the Leeds International Medieval Congress - <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/index.html> - is a large scale, prestigious event providing a welcome and appropriate host for this broad based numismatic event.

09:00 - 09:05 Welcome, **Richard Morris Head**,
Institute for Medieval Studies.

Session 502 EMC I - SCEATTAS - CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS
09:05 - 10:30 Moderator: **Gareth Williams**
Michael Metcalf: *The circulation of sceattas in the East Midlands.*
Mark Blackburn: *The chronology of the sceattas revisited.*
Tony Abramson: *The Wim de Wit collection of sceattas in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.*

Session 602 EMC II - ICONOGRAPHY I
11:15 - 12:45 Moderator: **Tony Abramson**

Catherine Karkov: *The boat and the cross: church and state in early Anglo-Saxon coinage.*

Leslie Webster: *The King's Beasts? The sceatta menagerie revisited.*

Rory Naismith: *Kingship and Learning on the Broad Penny
Coinage of the "Mercian Supremacy".*

12:45-13:30 Lunch Brasserie Conservatory. Buffet lunch for
SEMC registered attendees (ticket only)

Special Lunchtime Lecture: EMC III - ICONOGRAPHY II

13:30 - 14:00 Moderator: **Catherine Karkov**

Anna Gannon: *Coins and Icons*

Session 702 EMC IV - CONTINENTAL SCEATTAS

14:15 - 15:45 Moderator: **Michael Metcalf**

Wybrand Op den Velde: *Series E reconsidered.*

Gosse Hovinga: *Do the continental sceattas contradict the theories
of Albert Delahaye?*

Claus Feveile: *The Wodan/monster series – current research.*

Session 802 EMC V - VIKING COINS AND THE DUAL
ECONOMY OF THE DANELAW

16:30 - 18:00 Moderator: **Mark Blackburn**

Megan Gooch: *Viking kings, political power and monetisation.*

Barry Ager: *The "Harrogate" Hoard.*

Gareth Williams: *The monetary developments of the 920s in the
light of Harrogate and related hoards.*

Tony Abramson

2007 BANS CONGRESS

The BANS Autumn Weekend 2007 was staged at Dalton Ellis Hall, part of the University of Manchester campus in Victoria Park, over the weekend of 7-9 September. A total of 35 delegates from all over the British Isles, including four from Ireland, enjoyed a warm welcome from the local organising team of Keith Sugden and Phyllis Stoddart, both of whom also contrived to find the time to contribute papers to the event. A variety of numismatic topics and some excellent catering by the Dalton-Ellis team combined for a relaxed and convivial weekend that was enjoyed by all.

The subject of medals topped and tailed the programme. Mrs Stoddart opened proceedings with a detailed look at some of the designs employed on 19th century British campaign medals, with numerous references to contemporary documentation, while Peter Crummett exposed the temperance movement and the medals associated with it – even featuring some accompanying music! Joe Bispham introduced the audience to a 'new' Edward VI gold half-sovereign struck at the Durham House mint and expertly demonstrated how the coin fits into the chronology of the issues of that mint as we know them. Staying with the hammered theme, Bob Lyall put the siege coinages of Charles I from Carlisle, Scarborough, Newark and Pontefract in their historical contexts while Donal Bateson, curator of the coin cabinet at the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, presented a masterly overview of the whole of the coinage of Scotland in under an hour.

This year's Royal Mint lecturer, introduced by BANS Vice-President Kevin Clancy, was Stephen Raw, a Mancunian-domiciled designer whose particular expertise is lettering and typography; indeed, as a member of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee he specifically advises on the importance of lettering in numismatic design. The other speakers were Mike Robinson who, in exposing the different eras by which coins are dated and looking at

contemporary evidence, showed that some of the standard catalogues of world coins, particularly Krause-Mishler, contain incorrect and misleading information; and Keith Sugden, who gave an overview of the numismatic collections at Manchester Museum and showed a small but representative selection of their 80,000-strong holdings.

2008 BANS CONGRESS

The 2008 BANS Congress, organised by Alan Blake, Ron Kerridge and Rob de Ruiter on behalf of the Worthing & District Numismatic Society in their 40th anniversary year, is being held from 4 to 6 April at the Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing, two minutes from the sea front, with easy access from the M23 motorway, Gatwick Airport and frequent fast train services from London Victoria, Brighton and Portsmouth. The event is to be opened by the Mayor of Worthing, Cllr Heather Mercer. The all-inclusive cost of £165 includes accommodation, meals and the Congress Dinner, lectures by nine speakers on a range of numismatic topics and a choice of Saturday afternoon excursion, either to Arundel or Worthing. Further details may be had by contacting jr.deruiter@btconnect.com.

In 2009 the Congress will be staged by the Yorkshire Numismatic Society, celebrating their centenary. The Yorkshire Congress will be staged at the St Nicholas Hotel in Scarborough, from 3 to 5 April and will have an all-inclusive cost of £160. Sponsorship and a roster of speakers has been finalised, while the Society is also arranging for a medal to be struck to mark the event. The informal BANS Autumn Weekend, staged very successfully this year at Dalton Ellis Hall within the University of Manchester campus, will move to Nottingham in 2008. The venue will be Rutland Hall, part of the University of Nottingham, and the dates 5 to 7 September. The provisional all-inclusive cost is £123. Further details will be posted on the BANS website, www.coinclubs.freesevice.co.uk, in due course. Secretaries and team leaders of BANS-affiliated societies are urged to send details of their programmes to the BANS Secretary Phyllis Stoddart, Phyllis.stoddart@manchester.ac.uk, for inclusion on the BANS website, BANS can also provide a link to individual Society websites.

UK NUMISMATIC TRUST

Readers will probably be aware that the UK Numismatic Trust, established in 1985, encourages and supports numismatics in the United Kingdom through the award of small research grants to individuals. Less well known is its support for academic numismatic conferences, colloquia and seminars in the UK, and it is particularly keen to hear from the organisers of such events.

Please request a grant application form from the secretary, Keith Sugden, at the following address: Department of Numismatics, Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Inhuman Traffic: the business of the slave trade

Gallery 69a, British Museum, London, 24 May 2007 - Spring 2008

Encounters: Travel & money in the Byzantine World

Coin Gallery, Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham, 15 February 2007 – March 2008

A book to accompany the exhibition by E. Georganteli and B. Cook has been published by D. Giles Ltd. It is priced at £6.99.

Moving Forward: Changing Landscapes on 19th Century British Banknotes; Coin Gallery, Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham, March 2008 – February 2009

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

Cinc segles de numismàtica catalana (Five centuries of Catalan numismatics); Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona, until May 2008

LECTURES, SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA AND CONFERENCES

LECTURE DIARY

January

- 8 BAMS Olympic medals: Much Wenlock to Hackney Marshes, Francis Simmons
15 RNS The Tamba Collection of Japanese Coins at the British Museum, Helen Wang
22 BNS The early Anglo-Saxon coin finds in Norway, Elina Screen

February

- 12 BAMS Naval medals and awards from Elizabeth I to George III, Sim Comfort
19 RNS 'Show and Tell'
26 BNS 'The king offereth but only golde': coins and royal ceremony in Tudor and Stuart England, Barrie Cook

March

- 11 BAMS 'Nature and Time': the medals of Geoffrey Clarke, Judith LeGrove
18 RNS Imitation and Innovation: the Gold and Silver issues of the Umayyad Caliph Abd al-Malik, Jere Bacharach
27 BNS Ending with a bang or a whimper? Coin use in fifth-century Britain, Nick Wells

April

- 15 RNS Seminar: Counterfeits and Forgeries, Jenni Adam
22 BNS The world in one room: Sarah Sophia Banks and her coin collection, Catherine Eagleton

May

- 20 RNS The Roman Imperial Coinage of the Flavian Emperors, Ian Carradice
27 BNS Continuity through change: the work of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee, Professor Sir Christopher Frayling. (Followed by the Council Sherry Party for members and their guests.)

Contacts:

British Art Medal Society (BAMS)

Mr Philip Attwood, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG, tel: 020 7323 8260. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings held at 5.30pm, Cutlers Hall, Warwick Lane, London EC4. www.bams.org.uk

British Association of Numismatic Societies (BANS)

Phyllis Stoddart, Department of Numismatics, The Manchester Museum, The University of Manchester, Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9PL. My email address is, phyllis.stoddart@manchester.ac.uk I can be reached by phone on 0161 275 2643 during the day.

British Numismatic Society (BNS)

Richard Kelleher, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London, WC1B 3DG, tel: 020 7323 8255. Fax: 020 7323 8171. E-mail: secretary@britnumsoc.org. Membership secretary, Roland Hewson, c/o Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB, tel: 01707 267 958. E-mail: membershipsecretary@britnumsoc.org. Unless otherwise stated all meetings held at 6.00pm at the Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1. www.britnumsoc.org

British Numismatic Trade Association (BNTA)

BNTA British Numismatic Trade Association. Rosemary Cooke, General Secretary, P.O. Box 2, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7WE, tel: 01797 229988; fax: 01797 229988; e-mail: bnta@lineone.net; website: www.bnta.net.

Oriental Numismatic Society (ONS)

Mr Peter Smith, 9 Grandison Road, London SW11 6LS, tel: 020 7228 2826.

Royal Numismatic Society (RNS)

Dr Vesta Curtis, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1 3DG, tel: 020 7323 8272. Unless otherwise stated all meetings held at 5.30pm at the Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB. E-mail: vcurtis@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk; website: www.numismatics.org.uk

AUCTIONS AND FAIRS

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

February

- 7-8 **St James's Auction no 7**, to be held at the Cavendish Hotel, London SW1.
9 **Baldwin's Spring Argentum Auction**, British and World Coins, Tokens, Commemorative Medals and Banknotes. To be held in conjunction with the London Coin Fair, Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury.
24 **Spink**, Auction 8017: Important British 18th Century Tokens. Auction 8004: An Important Collection of Renaissance Medals & Plaquettes.
27 **Lockdales, Auction no. 64**
30 **Spink**, Auction 8003: Federated Malay States The Dr Yau Khai Weng Collection.

March

- 16 **Lockdales Auction no. 65**
26-27 **Spink**, Auction 8006: Ancient, Ancient English, Foreign Coins, Commemorative Medals & Books

Baldwin's: 11 Adelphi Terrace, London, WC2N 6BJ, Tel: 0207 9309808, fax: 02079309450. Auctions held at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London. www.baldwin.sh, auctions@baldwin.sh

Spink & Son: 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 4ET.

Croydon Coin Auctions: United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon. www.croydoncoinauctions.co.uk

Davidson Monk Fairs, Commonwealth Institute, Earls Court Rd/High Street Kensington. Tel: Graham 0208 6564583 (or 0208 6513890). www.markdavidsoncoins.co.uk

Dix Noonan Webb: Washington Hotel, 5 Curzon Street, Mayfair, London W1. Tel: 020 7499 5022, fax: 020 7499 5023, www.dnw.co.uk, auctions@dnw.co.uk

Bonham's: Montpelier Street, London, SW7 1HH. www.bonhams.com/coins
Morton & Eden Ltd: 45 Maddox Street, London W1S 2PE, 020 7493 5344. info@mortonandeden.com.

Warwick & Warwick Ltd: Chalon House, Scar Bank, Millers Road, Warwick CV34 5DB. Tel: 01926 499031, fax 01926 491906. www.warwickandwarwick.com, info@warwickandwarwick.com.

Classical Numismatic Group: 14 Old Bond Street. Tel: 020 7495 1888, fax: 020 7499 5916. Electronic auctions on www.engcoins.com

Harrogate Spring Coin Fair: Old Swan Hotel, Swan Road, Harrogate HG1 2SR Simon Monks 01234 270260 E-mail: simonmonks@supanet.com

St James's Auction: to be held at the Cavendish Hotel, London SW1. For further details contact Knightsbridge Coins, 43 Duke Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6DD. Tel: 0207 930 7597

Glendining's - now through Bonhams: 101 New Bond Street, W1Y 9LG. Tel: 020 7493 2445, fax: 020 7491 9181. www.bonhams.com

Italo Vecchi Ltd, 35 Dover St, W1X 3RA. Tel: 0207 491 7048.

Midland Coin Fair. David Fletcher Tel: 024 7671 6587. www.midlandcoinfair.co.uk, enquiries@midlandcoinfair.co.uk

Lockdales Auctions. The Ipswich Orwell Holiday Inn, The Havens, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9SJ. www.lockdales.com