

MONEY & MEDALS



The Newsletter for Numismatics in Britain

51 | December 2010

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Money & Medals is the numismatic publication formerly known as the *CCNB Newsletter*. The name change has come about in order to integrate the newsletter with the online Money and Medals Network currently being developed by the British Museum, RNS, BNS and a number of key partner museums with significant numismatic collections. The Network has a number of aims; 1) To act as an information exchange for curators within the UK whose collections include coins, medals and other objects relating to monetary and economic history and numismatics; 2) Provide information on best practice, new research and news items relating to the understanding, care and public access of those collections; 3) Encourage and facilitate collaborative ventures between the curators of those collections and to nurture links between those curators and individuals outside museums with an interest in related subject areas; 4) Make the broad case for the potential of those collections and the importance of numismatic expertise

for bringing them effectively to a wide audience and; 5) Work to identify new and exciting ways in which those collections can be presented to the public. We hope this Newsletter will be a key tool in drawing in new audiences to our subject.

The Newsletter is supported by the British Museum, the Royal Numismatic Society, the British Numismatic Society, the British Art Medal Society and the British Numismatic Trade Association. It appears triannually, and is received by those members of the RNS, BNS, BAMS and BNTA resident in the United Kingdom, and by others with an interest in numismatics and related fields. Overseas and non-society members may receive the Newsletter via email. Please send your name and email address to Richard Kelleher at rkelleher@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk.

Contributions and information will be gratefully received. Items for the next issue should be sent to Richard Kelleher, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, fax: 020 7323 8171, e-mail: rkelleher@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk or Megan Gooch, 4B Casemates, HM Tower of London, London, EC3N 4AB, email: megan.gooch@hrp.org.uk. Auction and fair details for inclusion in the next edition should be sent to Peter Preston-Morley at ppm@dnw.co.uk.

THE
BRITISH
MUSEUM



NEWS

Joe Cribb retires as Keeper of Coins & Medals

Joe Cribb has just retired. He has been 'coins' at the British Museum for a generation; he has and will be 'Kushan coins' for several more.



Linda Crook's medal marking Joe's retirement as Keeper

He joined the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum in 1970. And there he has remained for 40 years,

an extraordinary achievement. He started with China, but soon turned to south Asia, the topic for which his expertise is justly admired by numismatists, archaeologists, art historians and historians around the world. He's published some 20 articles on the Kushans and as many on more general topics of Indian numismatics, as well as his catalogue of the Chand collection (2003) and *The Indian Coinage Tradition* (2005). His work was characterised by a meticulous attention to personal and detailed examination of the objects themselves. (How many times have we heard him say, 'Look at the coins!'). But China did not disappear from his interests; *Money in the Bank*, his history of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, appeared in 1987 and was followed a few years later by his *Catalogue of Sycee* (1992), a book that will remain the standard treatment of Chinese silver ingots for many years.

You might think this would have been enough for an academic career of 40 years. But other fields have been enriched by his pen – Japan, Central Asia and South East Asia, especially the latter two. As well as many articles on Central Asia, his main achievements have been *Crossroads of*

Visit the website: www.numismatics.org.uk/ccnb

Asia (with Liz Errington) in 1992, and *Papers in Honour of Professor Hirayama* (with H Wang and K Tanabe) in 1997. For South East Asia, we have another feast, crowned by his *Magic Coins of Java, Bali and the Malay Peninsula* (1999). He has turned his hand to other fields like British or Islamic numismatics, and his family descent from the Joseph Cribb (his grandfather) who worked with Eric Gill has always given him a keen interest in things to do with Gill and his circle – he has published a book on *Gill's Medal for the Daily Herald* (2000) and more recently a book (with his daughter) on *Eric Gill and Ditchling* (2007). We hope to hear more on such topics (but, please, not till the Kushan book is finished!).

As well as exploring so many different fields, Joe has a particular ability to look across the whole world of numismatics. He produced the exhibition and book *Money, from Cowrie Shells to Credit Cards* in 1986. It was followed by *The Coin Atlas* (1990), the Dorling Kindersley *Eyewitness Guide: Money* (1990), and, *Money: A History* (1997). Exhibitions have been mentioned in passing, but they are today a crucial part of museum activity. And Joe was able to build on the success of the 1986 exhibition with the opening in 1997 of a permanent gallery at the British Museum, the *HSBC Money* gallery. It is hard to believe that great achievement is now well over 10 years old. It looks as fresh, visually and conceptually, as the day it opened. Millions of people, literally, have visited it since it opened, and it has given birth to many other copies and adaptations, in other museums like Manchester or the Ashmolean - and overseas. Imitation remains the sincerest form of flattery.

He has won the RNS' Lhotka Prize, for the best book introducing numismatics, no fewer than 3 times! But his outstanding academic contributions have been rightly recognised by the award the Huntington Medal of the ANS and by the RNS medal. We wish him a happy retirement, but we would like it to be a productive one!

Andrew Burnett, British Museum

'Impressions of Africa: money, medals and stamps' – A review

As part of the year-long London Festival of Stamps staged by the British Postal Museum and Archive, the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum has devised an exhibition of money, medals and stamps entitled *Impressions of Africa*, which can be seen in room 69a. This year is particularly significant in African history as seventeen states are currently celebrating their 50th anniversaries of independence. The centrepiece of this exhibition is an eye-catching display of the different hats and headgear worn by Nigeria's three largest cultural groups. Shown on their 50 Naira note, this demonstrates in microcosm the difficulties faced designing money, medals and stamps that adequately express and encompass the immense diversity of peoples and cultural symbols that exist in such an immense continent as Africa.

In the area now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Katanga crosses were used as a form of currency in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The secessionist government of the province of Katanga initially used it as a symbol of independence from the DRC on the coins and stamps they issued. After reunification the image of the Katanga cross continued to be used on the 1500-franc coin in a spirit of reconciliation, and in recognition of the importance of Katanga to the economy or the DRC. Similarly, the *manilla*, a bronze or copper armlet used as currency in Nigeria prior to colonisation, was used as a symbol to assert their independence by the secessionist government of the Republic of Biafra. Most newly independent African countries looked inward when designing coins, stamps and banknotes. Egypt used iconic symbols in order to emphasise their wealth of history such as the Pyramids of Giza, and key Islamic buildings such as the Mosque of Am-Qijmas al Ishaqi in Cairo. A first day cover from Zimbabwe shows the Great Zimbabwe Fortress built in AD1100 from which the country draws its Shona dialect name. Ghana, the first African state to gain independence in 1958, designed banknotes and tokens showing its three main exports, cocoa, timber and fish.

Some of the items on display betray attitudes that those who achieved independence sought to dispel. The 1000-franc French West African note of 1945 shows Marianne, the personification of France, protective of her powerless African subjects. Indigenous Africans are completely absent on the 1933 South African £20 note, and it is significant that one of Kwame Nkrumah's first actions on taking power as Ghana's first president in 1957 was to place his own portrait, that of an indigenous African man, on the coins, stamps and banknotes of that nation. Perhaps the most shocking exhibit on display acts as reminder that a country's struggle for self-determination does not end on the granting of independence. Zimbabwe's recent hyperinflation. Critics of the government, such as the national newspaper *The Zimbabwean* who found themselves silenced by a 55% 'luxury tax' on paper, have been able to turn the tables by using hyperinflation banknotes pasted together into posters to get their message across. A darkly witty example displayed here declares 'It is cheaper to print this on money than paper'. For those African nations who gained their independence 50 years ago it was the beginning of a new era, and the designs of their money, stamps and medals recognised this. This fascinating exhibition, available to view until 6 February 2011, gives an impression of how a cross-section of African states went about the task of expressing diversity and unity, history and the natural resources of Africa, to project an image of future progress and prosperity.

Benedict McLoughlin, Independent scholar

BAMS in Oxford

The 2011 British Art Medal Society weekend conference will be held in Oxford from 8 to 10 April and will be based at Worcester College. The weekend will begin with a drinks reception in the college gardens with a chance to view the medals that artists, collectors, dealers and others have brought with them. This will be followed by dinner in the college's 18th-century dining hall.

A series of four lectures will take place at the Ashmolean Museum on the Saturday morning on the theme of Renaissance emblems, plaquettes and medal reverses. Kristen Lippincott will speak on humanism and 15th-century impresse; Catherine Whistler on Titian's painting *The Triumph of Love* now in the Ashmolean; Jeremy Warren on the relationship between Renaissance plaquettes and medals; and Rick Scorza on Vasari's Lepanto frescoes and the commemorative medals of Pius V. After a buffet lunch there will be a chance to learn more about the Ashmolean's collection of coins and medals, before returning to Worcester College for dinner.

Sunday morning activities will be held at the university's Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, where sculptor Jane McAdam Freud will talk about her recent works inspired by medals. Jane will then lead a practical workshop entitled *Something to Say*, which will focus on the ideas underlying medals and their design. A buffet lunch will then be served back at Worcester College. For more information, contact Janet Larkin at jlarkin@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk or telephone 020 7323 8568, or consult the BAMS website (www.bams.org.uk).

The 2011 BANS Congress

The BANS 2011 Congress will be held in Southport from the 25th to 27th March and is hosted by the Ormskirk & West Lancashire Numismatic Society. A full and varied programme of speakers include talks on famous numismatists, the Brussels Hoard, the rise and falls of the Antoninianus, Iron Age coins, Tokens, the Romans in Britain, and the East India company. Full details can be found at www.bans2011.info. The cost of the weekend is £190 including meals and accommodation (or £300 for two delegates sharing a room). Daily attendance and non-residential packages are available upon request. To book a place, please send a cheque for £50 payable to 'BANS 2011 Congress' to Mr Alan Dawson, Secretary, Ormskirk and West Lancashire Numismatic Society, PO Box 61, Wight Moss Way, Kew, Southport, PR9 0PZ. For further information please email info@bans2011.info or telephone Alan on 01704 232494.

Numismatic events in Leeds and York in 2011

Two important numismatic conferences are being held during a week-long festival of numismatics in Yorkshire in July 2011. The Medieval Coinage Symposium is taking place in Leeds and the following day "Moneta Britannia" takes place in York. The Medieval Coinage Symposium is being held in as part of the 2011 International Medieval Congress taking place at Leeds University from 11th – 14th July on the theme of "Poor . . . Rich", with the numismatic symposium taking place on the 13th. Twelve lectures are planned within a theme of "Making the World Go Round: Coinage, Currency, Credit, Recycling & Finance in Medieval Europe".

Moneta Britannia will be held in York (UK) on 14th July 2011 and will focus on Roman coinage related to Britain.

Also taking place that week is the very popular York Stamp

and Coin Fair, to be held as usual at York Racecourse on the Friday and Saturday. The Yorkshire Numismatic Society is holding a special meeting at the Coin Fair on the Friday where Gareth Williams of the British Museum will be giving a talk on the Vale of York Hoard. Further information can be found on the following websites or by contacting the organisers: <http://monetabritannia2011.blogspot.com/> and <http://studiesinmedievalcoinage.blogspot.com/>. Lee Toone (Moneta Britannia- UK) lee@leetoone.co.uk or 0113 2811141; Brent Upchurch (Moneta Britannia- USA) bhupchurch@verizon.net or Tony Abramson (Medieval Coinage Symposium) t.abramson@ntlworld.com or 0113 2250680.

Book Thefts from the National Archives

The National Archives have recently discovered that two early printed books appear to have been stolen from their library. In both cases the text block has been cut or pulled out of the binding and removed, leaving the empty binding on the shelf. It is thought that someone might try to get them rebound before selling them, or that someone could purchase them in the condition they are in and then seek to get them bound. The books are: LEAKE, Stephen Martin, *Nummi britannici historia : or, An historical account of English money, from the conquest to the uniting of the two kingdoms by King James I. and of Great Britain to the present time. With particular descriptions of each piece, and illustrated cuts of the more antient. A work hitherto unattempted ... Particularly calculated for the benefit of the curious collector of English coin.* London : W. Meadows, 1726 and PETTUS, Sir John 1613-1690, *Fodinæ regales : or, The history, laws and places of the chief mines and mineral works in England, Wales, and the English Pale in Ireland ; as also of the mint and mony : with a clavis explaining some difficult words relating to mines, &c.* London : Printed by H.L. & R.B. for Thomas Basset, 1670. TNA have contacted the Antiquarian Booksellers Association who keep a database of stolen books. If there is any further help or advice anyone can provide please contact: Helen Pye-Smith, Head of Business Support and Library Services, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Tel: +44 (0)20 8392 5278.

CCNB Questionnaire

Many thanks to all who responded to the recent CCNB questionnaire. We received over 120 responses, and these will be an invaluable resource in continuing to provide an interesting and informative newsletter. The results will be available on the website in the New Year and show the wide range of numismatic interests of the readership, and the ways in which different parts of the Newsletter cater to different elements of the readership. Thanks again.

Richard Kelleher, Newsletter Editor

FOCUS: 150 YEARS OF COINS & MEDALS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Coins and Medals at the BM: 150 years



The British Museum's Department of Coins and Medals is 150 years old. This very significant anniversary provides us with a fitting occasion to recall a century and a half of achievement but also to pause for a moment and consider the future. When it was founded in 1753, the Museum already had a substantial numismatic collection. Initially part of the Department of Manuscripts, this was transferred to the splendidly named Department of Natural and Artificial Productions in 1803. When that department was split up four years later, it found a place within the newly created Department of Antiquities, where two eminent numismatists, Taylor Combe and Edward Hawkins, were successive keepers. Hawkins' announcement in the summer of 1860 that he would shortly be retiring after more than thirty years gave the Museum's trustees the opportunity to divide this department in turn. The previous fifty years had seen the arrival of numerous Greek, Roman, Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities, as well as important collections of coins and medals, including those of Richard Payne Knight and George III, which had arrived in the 1820s. What had been principally a library and natural history museum had now become a world-class museum of artefacts ancient and modern, and this development was to be reflected in the creation of more specialised departments.

The manner in which this was to be achieved was not immediately apparent until at a meeting of 10 November 1860 the trustees resolved to create three new departments: Greek and Roman Antiquities, Coins and Medals, and Oriental Antiquities. Yet only in February 1861 were the new keepers appointed, with all three reporting to the trustees on the 9th of that month that they had embarked upon their duties. The keeper of coins and medals, William Vaux, was succeeded in 1870 by his assistant Reginald Stuart Poole. It was under Poole's 23-year keepership that the celebrated series of British Museum coin catalogues was initiated, while mounting acquisitions necessitated the move in 1893 to a new coin room, which (in a much rebuilt state) remains the department's home today.

The department continues to produce scholarly catalogues, although this is only one of many ways in which access to the collections is achieved. Forthcoming publications include a catalogue of the Museum's Japanese coins and a popular, but no less authoritative, book on the money and medals of Shakespeare's time. A similar range is available on the Museum's website, with catalogues of the BM's Roman Republican coins and paper money of England and Wales and other numismatic research publications finding their place alongside much smaller online tours.

Coins and medals continue to feature in many of the Museum's exhibitions around the world and in displays and

exhibitions mounted by other museums and galleries. Those featured in Radio 4's extraordinarily popular *History of the World in 100 Objects* will remain specially highlighted throughout the coming year. Many more of our objects are exhibited in the Museum's ground-breaking and much imitated Money Gallery. We hope to keep the gallery at the forefront of numismatic display by finding the funds to reinvigorate it in the near future. Other material is shown in Room 69a, which will continue in 2011 with exhibitions exploring the work of Eric Gill and The Cost of Living.

The rest of the collection of around one million objects is made available to all in the department's study room, which resumes a full service after five months of partial closure. It is also in the study room that books from our important numismatic library are made available to members of the public. The British Museum's library catalogue went online in 2010, and we are adding the department's books and periodicals into the system as fast as we can – a project that is largely reliant on volunteers and the generosity of donors. Study sessions are also organised here for specific groups. Our third annual *Classical Numismatics Summer School* for students will take place in 2011, and – partly at the suggestion of past participants – will, we hope, be expanded from a week to a fortnight.

So what should the role of the department be in the 21st century? Much of the department's work is in partnership with institutions and organisations here and abroad. This newsletter provides an example, produced as it is in collaboration with the national societies and the BNTA, so as to bring news and information to a readership that includes a full range of interested parties. Researching the collection, making it available to the public both physically and online and processing new finds are core activities for the department, but equally important is the work it does within the numismatic community to encourage interest in the subject and demonstrate to as wide an audience as possible the range of knowledge and understanding that can come from the study of coins and medals – now and for the next 150 years.

Philip Attwood, British Museum

Coins and Medals: An appreciation



This year the British Museum's Department of Coins and Medals celebrates its 150th anniversary. Everyone interested in numismatics in this country, and indeed internationally, has reason to join in that celebration, for we have all benefitted hugely from the work of the Department. The scholarly publications record of the Department over so long a period is unparalleled anywhere in the world. The Catalogues of the British Museum collection are an essential reference point. Historical articles and monographs on specific topics illustrate the contribution which coins can make at the highest level, while more general works illustrate how coins can best be used for historical study. Popular introductions for the general public serve the wider community. This range

of publication is matched by a similar range of exhibitions, which contribute specialist evidence to scholarly displays as well as more accessible presentations for the beginner. The path-breaking BM HSBC Money Gallery blazed a trail for other numismatic displays – both new and/or much improved – in Cardiff, Cambridge, Lincoln, Manchester and Oxford, though hats off too to Donal Bateson who built fine new permanent displays first in Belfast and then in Glasgow even before the BM.

The Department has a particularly important role in the publication of coin hoards. Thanks to the wisely drafted laws of Treasure Trove, and more recently Treasure, the UK enjoys a database of carefully recorded coin hoards stretching back a century and a half. The volume of work generated by coin hoards alone – their cleaning and conservation as well as their weighing, photographing, recording and publication- is truly enormous, and the scholarly community owes the Department a debt of gratitude for this which cannot be exaggerated. This work is frankly often a burden. Although new finds are capable of transforming our subject, more often they tend to confirm and deepen our existing knowledge. The staff in the department might be forgiven if they sometimes inwardly groan at the news of another big third-century Roman hoard, or a big find of Edward pennies or Civil war coins of the 1640s. Yet the study of this material is fundamental to our subject, and continues to yield new insights. It may be that the wider numismatic community can help to bear some of this burden. Local finds generate considerable interest in the localities, and regional museum staff, who see such material less frequently, would often be willing to lend a hand. Sharing the load in this way is already taking place, and is much to be welcomed.

However, since the arrival of the metal detector, single finds have emerged alongside coin hoards, as a source of information of almost equal importance. Here once again the Department has played a fundamentally important role through its work establishing the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Once again the cooperation between the BM and regional museums is proving important. The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and the British Numismatic Society have done fundamental work on early medieval English single finds, while the PAS, led and coordinated from the BM, has established a team of Finds Liaison Officers across the regions, and established a database which is an essential resource for scholarship.

Numismatics draws much of its life-blood from individual scholars and collectors with no formal museum connection. British numismatics in particular has established an extraordinarily precise chronology almost entirely due to the painstaking ground work of a series of private individuals. The BM has long provided a welcoming home for this long and distinguished tradition of ‘amateur’ numismatists. I’m thinking of, for example, of people like L.A. Lawrence or Elmore Jones. But the Department’s contribution to the work of private collectors and scholars is also expressed through the work of BM staff for the Royal and British

Numismatic Societies. It is no exaggeration to say that these Societies could not function as they do without the voluntary labour of many BM staff.

As standard bearer of numismatics in Britain (and internationally) the BM exercises an enormous influence. As well as leading our subject in Britain, the BM is also in a position to promote the importance of numismatics politically. As museum coin posts become threatened, and already the National Collection in Edinburgh is without a curator, (though the previous incumbent nobly tries to do what he can in retirement) the numismatic community in Britain depends more than ever on the energy and enthusiasm of our champion, the Department of Coins and Medals.

Nick Mayhew, Ashmolean Museum

Collecting – Past, present and future



Coins and medals feature in the founding collections of the British Museum, long before the establishment of a separate department. The Cotton collection still contains some of our most significant pieces, especially within the British series. It was recognised that these were ‘documents’ of British history, and they accordingly received a little more respect in early years than some other post-Classical antiquities. It is hardly surprising that the Museum built up fine collections of Classical coins, but it has always also held the ‘national collection’ of British coins. Both the historical and artistic importance of medals were also recognised early, reflected in the title of the ‘Medal Room’ as the fore-runner of the department.

The early collection benefited from the acquisition of a number of entire collections, such as that of George III, as well as from individual sale purchases and hoards. The growth of the British Empire provided opportunities to collect overseas. Recent research within the department on traveller/collectors such as Sir Aurel Stein emphasises their importance in adding to the BM collections through building up their own. The BM also benefited from the acquisitions of collections built up closer to home. Again, recent research on collectors such as Sarah Sophia Banks reveals their importance in this regard.

The idea of having a ‘complete’ reference collection with at least one example of everything available was already well-established by the time that the Department was formed. This is visible in the collecting policy of Sir Edward Hawkins, and is particularly evident in his careful selections from Cuerdale and other substantial hoards. The concept of completeness is apparent in the continued use across many series of BMC classifications, with multi-volume British Museum Catalogues produced across several series. These catalogues are often important scholarly works in their own right, but they continue to provide useful classification systems even where interpretations have moved on, simply because of the strength of the collections.

The last few decades have seen several changes to our

approach to collecting. The UNESCO convention on the export of antiquities fundamentally limits opportunities for adding significantly to the collection. In addition, exchanges are no longer considered ethical, and in our case are strictly forbidden by the British Museum Act (1964). Even within the British series, where metal detecting has resulted in the identification of many important new types, from the Iron Age onwards, the increased opportunity to build and develop the 'complete' collection is handicapped by a drastic reduction in the BM's acquisition budget over the last twenty years or so. We can still afford to do a little minor gap-filling in cheaper series, but otherwise the emphasis within the historical collections is on significant pieces only, such as the Coenwulf mancus, or the Vale of York hoard.

At the same time, other areas have a new emphasis in our collections. Collecting contemporary currency maintains the idea of completeness for the future. We are able to do this in part through donations, but purchases at low cost now may be seen as a good investment for the future. The breadth of the modern collections is also important for understanding the changing nature of money – the collection holds not just coins and medals, but paper money, cheques, credit cards, money-boxes and cash registers. Furthermore when it comes to building the contemporary collections, there is an even greater emphasis than in the past on our global coverage. This is particularly reflected in current approach to money in Africa.

Collecting now is thus, as it has always been, collecting for the future, and this is also reflected in another important area of collecting today, which is the modern art medal. In this active field we aim both to collect a representative sample of what is happening now, and to second-guess which artists will be the historically important artists of the future. Here again, relatively small investments now may ensure that we have the collections in place to support the exhibitions and research and public enquiries of the future. Here again, completeness is not possible, so we have to be consciously selective in acquiring with an eye to the future. Whether those selections are correct, only the future will tell.

Gareth Williams, British Museum

Public access to the collections of money and medals at the British Museum



From the foundation of the British Museum in 1753, public access to its collections has been at the heart of its purpose, with all persons 'curious and studious' able to visit, for free. In 1879, 120 years after it opened to the public, Charles Dickens Jr described the museum and its displays in his *Dictionary of London*: 'Today its invaluable accumulations are being brought out and adapted to the uses of the age, and the public are invited to profit by the many beautiful lessons they can silently but surely teach.'

Noting that the museum was now open every day, and that babes in arms were no longer excluded, Dickens mentioned experiments with new technologies like artificial light that

were enabling longer opening hours, so that more visitors could come to the displays and the study rooms. In the 130 years since Dickens published his description, access to the collections has expanded further, and the study room in the Department of Coins and Medals last year allowed more than 350 people to study 7,000 objects from the collection, as well as books from the library. The department also answers enquiries from people around the world, totalling almost 2,000 emails, letters, phone calls and objects brought to the department for identification in 2009-10.

Coins, medals, tokens and paper money are visible across the museum, with objects from the department's collections featured in most galleries, as well as in the permanent *HSBC Money Gallery*, which is visited by more than 2 million people each year, and the temporary displays in room 69a. Alongside these displays, there is an active programme of national and international loans, and programmes to enable new audiences to engage with the collections. These include object handling, which started in the Money Gallery, but now can be found across the British Museum, and also behind-the-scenes object handling for primary and secondary school students, through which 1000 pupils each year handle objects in support of curriculum subjects. Recent educational programmes have focussed on the ways we can use the money and medal collections to teach topics including financial literacy and numeracy, and we continue to explore ways to engage new audiences with objects and the stories they tell.

One of the most significant developments in the last few years has been the *Collections Online* database. At the time of writing, this includes 528,736 records for objects in the Department of Coins and Medals collection, of which 110,793 have images – by the time you read this, those numbers will have increased as work continues on creating and upgrading records, and on adding new images. Since it launched in October 2007, records in the database have been viewed 19 million times, and it now accounts for 20% of all traffic to the British Museum's website, extending access to the museum's collections to people around the world. It remains to be seen how this new technology, like the innovation of artificial light in the 19th century, will transform the ways people engage with the British Museum and its collections of money and medals in the 21st century.

Catherine Eagleton, British Museum

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

'Origins': in search of early Wales

National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, from December 2007

Britannia: Money

Ashmolean Museum (Gallery 7), Oxford

The special exhibition traces the representation of Britannia from her first appearance on English currency in 1672 to the public outcry when she disappeared from the coinage in 2008.

Kings, Satraps and Shahs: Persian coinage through the ages

Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. 21 Sept 2010 – 30 Jan 2011

Impressions of Africa: money, medals and stamps

British Museum, Gallery 69a. April 2010 – 6 February 2011
This small display looks at the images of Africa presented on the coins, banknotes, medals and stamps made for the continent during the past 100 years.

Divine Images in Persia and India

HSBC Money Gallery (Case 10), British Museum. 4 November 2010 – 10 Feb 2011

Eric Gill: Public and Private Art

British Museum, Gallery 69a. 10 Feb 2011 – 7 Aug 2011
This exhibition explores the wide range of Gill's artistic practice, including his coin, stamp and medal designs and smaller-scale works.

The Forgotten Emperor: Battles, Betrayal and Murder in Roman Britain

Winchester Discovery Centre. 22 January — 13 March 2011
This exciting exhibition of stunning Roman artefacts tells a story of power, corruption and murder.

Sacred and Profane: Treasures of Ancient Egypt

Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham (Coin Gallery). 18 June 2010 – 18 January 2012
Sacred and Profane celebrates the extraordinary bequest of Major William Joseph Myers (1858–1899).

LECTURES, SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA AND CONFERENCES

DIARY

January

- 18 RNS *Learning from the Zecca: The Medieval Mint of Venice as a Model for Pre-modern Minting*, Alan Stahl followed by the presentation of the Society Medal
25 BNS *Kings and Coins in the Tenth-Century English Kingdom*, George Molyneux

February

- 8 BAMS *The other side of Constantine. Alexander Ionides's collecting*, Melanie Vandenbrouck-Przybylski
15 RNS *Coinage of the Iceni*, John Talbot
22 BNS *The evolution of to-day's global minting industry and the challenges ahead*, Keith Cottrell

March

- 8 BAMS *Gifts of the Caesars: the first medals*, Richard Abdy
15 RNS *Jean Dassier and his Rois d'Angleterre*, Bill Eisler
22 BNS *The Calais Mint, the wool trade and the Hundred Years War, 1349-c.1450*, Martin Allen
25-7 BANS *BANS Annual Congress 2011 to be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Southport.*

April

- 8-10 BAMS *Annual Weekend Conference, Oxford (see News section above for details).*
19 RNS *Well Known but Little Understood: the Coins with the Inscription of Κ Ο Σ Ω Ν*, Adi Popescu
26 BNS *Vikings and Churchmen: Coinage in tenth century York*, Megan Gooch

May

- 17 RNS *A Riverine Site in North Yorkshire: Coins, Weights and Bullion from the First Phase of Viking Settlement in England*, Gareth Williams
24 BNS *Arctic and Polar Medals: Rewards to the brave, the foolhardy and the shivering*, Admiral J. A. L. Myres
Followed by the Spring Reception for members and their guests.

AUCTIONS AND FAIRS

Please note: Dates may be subject to alteration. For later updates on auctions, see the international auction calendar at www.dnw.co.uk

January

- 2 **Wakefield Medal Fair.** Outwood Memorial Hall, Victoria Street, Outwood, Wakefield.
8 **Linda Monk Fair.** Bloomsbury Hotel, 16-22 Great Russell Street, London WC1.
9 **Midland Coin Fair.** National Motorcycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham. www.midlandcoinfair.co.uk
9 **Preston Arms & Militaria Fair.** Swallow Hotel, Preston, Lancs. www.prestonarmsfair.co.uk
9 **Mark Carter Militaria and Medal Fair.** Princes Hall, Princes Way,
11 **Croydon Coin Auctions.** Ancient, English and World Coins, Medals, etc. United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, E. Croydon, Surrey.
15 **Stockport Medals & Militaria Fair.** Britannia Hotel, Dialstone Lane, Offerton, Stockport.
16 **Lockdales. Coins, Medals and Paper Money.** Orwell Holiday Inn, The Havens, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich. www.lockdales.com
16 **Sovereign Militaria & Medal Fair.** Bushey Academy, London Road, Bushey, Herts.
21-22 **York Coin Fair.** The Grandstand, York Racecourse. www.stampshows.net
23 **Mark Carter Militaria and Medal Fair.** Yate Leisure Centre, Kennedy Way, Yate, Chipping Sodbury, Avon.
27-28 **Thomson Roddick & Medcalf.** Coins, Orders, Decorations and Medals. Coleridge House, Shaddongate, Carlisle. www.thomsonroddick.com
30 **Coin, Medal, Banknote and Militaria Fair.** Cedar Court Hotel, Dale Road, Calder Grove, Wakefield, W. Yorkshire.

February

- 5 **London Coin Fair.** Holiday Inn, Coram Street, London WC1.
5 **Baldwin's Auctions.** Spring Argentum Auction. Holiday Inn, Coram Street, London WC1. www.baldwin.co.uk
9 **Warwick & Warwick.** Coins, Medals and Militaria, Paper Money. Court House, Jury Street, Warwick. www.warwickandwarwick.com
13 **Midland Coin Fair.** National Motorcycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham. www.midlandcoinfair.co.uk
20 **Bromley Medal Fair.** Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Kentish Way, Bromley, Kent.
27 **Coin, Medal, Banknote and Militaria Fair.** Cedar Court Hotel, Dale Road, Calder Grove, Wakefield, W. Yorkshire.
27 **David Douglas Militaria Fair.** Scotch Corner Hotel, Scotch Corner, N. Yorks.

March

- 2 **Bosleys. Medals and Militaria.** Court Gardens, Marlow, Bucks. www.bosleys.co.uk

- 5-6 **London Coins.** Coins, Medals and Banknotes. Grange Hotel, Charles Square, Bracknell, Berks. www.londoncoins.co.uk
- 13 **Midland Coin Fair.** National Motorcycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham. www.midlandcoinfair.co.uk
- 13 **Mark Carter Militaria and Medal Fair.** Leisure & Visitor Centre, Bridgefoot, Stratford-upon-Avon.
- 16 **Dix Noonan Webb.** Ancient, British and World Coins, Numismatic Books. Washington Hotel, 5 Curzon Street, London W1. www.dnw.co.uk
- 17 **Dix Noonan Webb.** Commemorative Medals, Numismatic Books. Washington Hotel, 5 Curzon Street, London W1. www.dnw.co.uk
- 17 **Timeline Auctions.** Coins. Swedenborg Hall, 20 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1. www.timelineauctions.com
- 20 **David Douglas Militaria Fair.** The Maltings, Queen's Wynd, West Street, Berwick-upon-Tweed.
- 24 **Spink.** Ancient, British and World Coins, Commemorative Medals. 69 Southampton Row, London WC1. www.spink.com
- 27 **Lockdales.** Coins, Medals and Paper Money. Orwell Holiday Inn, The Havens, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich, www.lockdales.com
- 27 **Coin, Medal, Banknote and Militaria Fair.** Cedar Court Hotel, Dale Road, Calder Grove, Wakefield, W. Yorkshire.
- 29-30 **Dix Noonan Webb.** Orders, Decorations and Medals. Washington Hotel, 5 Curzon Street, London W1. www.dnw.co.uk
- 31 **Dix Noonan Webb.** British and World Paper Money. Washington Hotel, 5 Curzon Street, London W1. www.dnw.co.uk

April

- 3 **Preston Arms & Militaria Fair.** Swallow Hotel, Preston, Lancs. www.prestonarmsfair.co.uk
- 3 **Bromley Medal Fair.** Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Kentish Way, Bromley, Kent.
- 10 **Midland Coin Fair.** National Motorcycle Museum, Bickenhill, Birmingham. www.midlandcoinfair.co.uk
- 13-14 **Spink.** World Banknotes. 69 Southampton Row, London WC1. www.spink.com
- 13 **Warwick & Warwick.** Coins, Medals and Militaria, Paper Money. Court House, Jury Street, Warwick. www.warwickandwarwick.com
- 17 **Mark Carter Militaria and Medal Fair.** Princes Hall, Princes Way, Aldershot, Hants.
- 21 **Spink.** Orders, Decorations and Medals. 69 Southampton Row, London WC1. www.spink.com
- 24 **Coin, Medal, Banknote and Militaria Fair.** Cedar Court Hotel, Dale Road, Calder Grove, Wakefield, W. Yorkshire.
- 24 **David Douglas Militaria Fair.** Novotel, Kingston Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Contacts:

British Art Medal Society (BAMS)

Janet Larkin, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG, tel: 020 7323 8568. 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)

Peter Preston-Morley, Dix Noonan Webb, 16 Bolton St, Mayfair, London, W1J 8BQ, Telephone: 020 7016 1700. E-mail: secretary@britnumsoc.org. Membership secretary, Philip Skingley, c/o Spink and Son, 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 4ET, tel: 020 7563 4000. 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)

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 Helen Wang, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1 3DG, tel: 020 7323 8172. Unless otherwise stated all meetings held at 5.30pm at the Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB. E-mail: hwang@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk; website: www.numismatics.org.uk

Dealers contact details

Baldwin's: 11 Adelphi Terrace, London, WC2N 6BJ. www.baldwin.sh.auctions@baldwin.sh

Bonham's: Montpelier Street, London, SW7 1HH. www.bonhams.com/coins

Classical Numismatic Group: Electronic auctions on www.cngcoins.com

Croydon Coin Auctions: United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon.

Dix Noonan Webb: Washington Hotel, 5 Curzon Street, Mayfair, London W1., www.dnw.co.uk, auctions@dnw.co.uk

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

Linda Monk Fairs: Jury's Hotel, Great Russell St, London. www.lindamonkfairs.co.uk (also incorporating Pam West's Paper Money Fair, www.londonpapermoneyfair.co.uk)

Lockdales: 37 Upper Orwell Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 1HP (01473 218588). www.lockdales.com

Midland Coin Fair. Mike Veissid. Midland Coin fair, Coin & Medal Fairs Ltd, Hobsley House, Frodesley, Shrewsbury SY5 7HD. Tel: 01694 731439 www.midlandcoinfair.com

Morton & Eden Ltd: 45 Maddox Street, London W1S 2PE. info@mortonandeden.com

St James's Auctions, 43 Duke Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6DD. Tel: 0207 930 7597

Spink & Son: 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 4ET. www.spink.com. Tel: 0207 563 4000

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

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Season's Greetings to all our readers