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NEWSLETTER
THE JOURNAL OF THE LONDON NUMISMATIC CLUB

HONORARY EDITOR

Peter A. Clayton

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EDITORIAL

The Club has enjoyed yet another fruitful year with seven talks, five of them being given by Club members, our Members' Own evening and the annual cheese and wine party that followed the AGM.

Once again the numismatic content of the talks was very widely spread. We heard about the almost 'odd ball' provincial coinage of Roman Egypt, Graeco-Roman in style and denomination, often with ancient Egypt reverse types, the product of a country that was not a proper Roman province but more the Emperor's private fiefdom. A major contribution was on the almost legendary Brussels hoard, often spoken of in awe as being held in Baldwin's basement until some brave and knowledgeable soul could face examining it in detail and publishing it. The Club was entranced to hear the full story of the hoard and the subsequent work on it that led to a definitive publication.

Britain's first numismatist could be suggested as being Sir Thomas Smith (1513-77), although his work, *A Treatise on the Money of the Romans*, was not published as a book but is known from several remaining manuscripts, and he was himself a most learned and intriguing character.

'Treasure Trove' are perhaps the two most emotive words in the English language, but the Law, (which was only Common Law, not Statute Law) was overtaken by the Treasure Act 1996 and a number of the coin hoards found before and after 1996 are discussed and the circumstances of their find and their valuations noted. Another talk relating to numismatics of a more recent date threw light on the medals that charted the history of Methodism from its founder, John Wesley.

The roller-coaster life of the Byzantine emperor Justinian II was an intriguing numismatic presentation of a curious episode in the history of

the later, Byzantine, Roman Empire. Finally, the pleasures of the pursuit of coins outside the formal presentation in the dealers' trays but by delving into junk boxes, spotting and hopefully identifying the often overlooked oddities has sent us all out into the numismatic world with a keener eye.

Obviously all the talks presented to the Club are, by virtue of their content, almost entirely based on the coins, which require visual presntation. That can produce Editorial problems in endeavouring to 'translate' an essentially visual talk into a written text that can be read with interest and not with frustration by continually referring in almost catalogue form to the now unseen illustrations. Some speakers' talks use the illustrations as an adjunct to the talk, others will use the slides as the base of their text. Thereby hangs the Editorial problem of 'translation', but the Editor is grateful to the contributors who supply him with an electronic version of their talk, and then are kind enough to check over his endeavours at producing a reading text of the talk. Thus, hopefully the other 40-odd Club members who were not able to hear and see the talk can at least savour the flavour of it in a readable account.

Peter A. Clayton, Honorary Editor

London Numismatic Club Meeting, 4 February 2014

David Powell spoke on "The Provincial Coinage of Roman Egypt". By virtue of its geographical position, Egypt was one of the most far-flung provinces in the Roman Empire, which had two interesting consequences:

- Information took a long time to travel from Rome, in consequence of which there was often a time lag in knowing when a new emperor had come to power, and even longer in knowing what he looked like for the purpose of depicting on coins.
- because of the relative difficulty of enforcing compliance at a distance, it looked superficially as if Egypt enjoyed a greater independence and quite often "did its own thing"; which, when translated into coinage terms, resulted in a coinage looking quite unlike most of the rest of the Empire. However, J. G. Milne, author of the seminal catalogue of Alexandrian coins in the Ashmolean Museum, implies that the opposite was the case; that the Romans kept Egypt very much under their thumb, and allowed them only a non-standard coinage in order to isolate them. Egypt was, in fact, seen as the personal possession of the Emperor. It had no Governor, only a Prefect, and no member of the Imperial family or the Senate was allowed to visit it without the express permission of the Emperor.

The talk commenced with a description of the particular characteristics of the coinage:

- its large chunky pieces.
- its use throughout its lifetime (approx 30 BC to AD 296) of Greek denominations such as the drachm and the obol in preference to the Roman denarius.
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- its use throughout, for all but the first 40 years of the above period, of a feature unparalleled on other Roman provincial issues; namely, a regular regnal year dating system.

The last-mentioned subject led on to a discussion of the Alexandrian calendar, which ran very much like our own in terms of three years of 365 days followed by one of 366, but which started on either 29 or 30 August. When it came to regnal years, however, these were interpreted differently; rather than running for twelve months from whenever the emperor came to power, as is the usual way, a new regnal year started with each Alexandrian year even if the emperor had only been in office a few days. This means that in some cases year 1 of an emperor's coins are missing, either because his year 2 had started before his coinage could be organised, or because knowledge of his promotion did not become available until after the Alexandrian year began in which he was appointed. Similarly, if news of an emperor's death did not reach Alexandria quickly, an emperor's coinage might be disproportionately large during his final year. An example of year 7 of Philip II, the Arab, supposedly covering the 19 days 29 Aug to 16 Sept 249, was shown.

A Greek lettering and numbering system was used on Alexandrian coins, and the latter was explained: namely, how the Greeks used the first nine letters of their alphabet for the numbers 1-9, the next nine for 10-90, and the rest for the hundreds. One strange quirk of the system was its users were very reluctant to use the letter *theta* for 9, as was naturally required, on the grounds that it was the initial letter of the Greek word for death, *thanatos*. Most Alexandrian coins of year 9, therefore, have the word for nine spelt out in full, even if numerals were generally acceptable in other years. The letter L on the coins that precedes the year number is taken from a demotic (late Egyptian writing) letter beginning the word for

year, and sometimes instead it is spelt out on the coins as the Greek *etoyc*.

The chronological sequence of Alexandrian coins is generally contiguous, unlike many other Roman Provincial series, although there are some discernible short gaps or scarcities in the sequence due to lack of supply or demand. Significantly, these sometimes occur where one would least expect them to be, in the reigns of better-known and longer-reigning emperors who, back at Rome, were known for prodigious outputs of denarii and other main series issues. The most notable example is in the Severan period in the late second and early third century, for which Alexandrian coins are very rare. Elsewhere the coins of certain emperors and empresses, whose pieces in the main series are horrendously rare, can be obtained with only moderate difficulty. This was illustrated by a very pleasant piece of the empress Tranquillina, wife of Gordian III (238-244).

After the above explanatory preamble, the main part of the talk began by briefly describing the background against which the Roman series for Alexandria was set; the standing eagle, the preceding Ptolemaic dynasty's dominant type, remained Alexandria's most common reverse right down to the reform of its coinage, along with other provincial issues, in AD 296. Another feature inherited from this period, and preserved on all the drachm and all the other smaller copper issues, was the convex saucer-like shape on each side of the pieces, which curved smoothly down at the edge, all round, on one side. Usually the obverse is the side bevelled, except on some pieces in the reign of Vespasian and Domitian, on which it is the reverse.

There was some evidence that Roman Alexandria was experimenting with its denominational system up until about AD 10, but

by then it had settled down. The talk illustrated most of the main coin-issuing emperors and empresses from this point on, with observations as it went along on the variety of reverses represented and the way these differed from their main series counterparts.

The most common coin in the Alexandrian series was the billon tetradrachm, as was reflected in the talk, although examples of the various copper values were also shown. The smaller of these were rarely available in any great number, but the large copper drachm was minted in reasonable quantities until about 170, with a few isolated later issues which were debatably medallic.

The term "billon" requires some definition. Alexandrian tetradrachms were never struck in high-grade silver, as in other provinces and at earlier times; at their best, in the reigns of Tiberius and Claudius, they were only 25% silver, and over the years they degenerated still further:

- Nero – Marcus Aurelius 16%
- Elagabalus – mid-Gallienus 7%
- Claudius 2%
- Diocletian 1%

There are certainly some pieces which look more silvery than others of the same period, but this is probably due to the use of silver wash rather than overall content.

The reverses were in the same broad categories beloved of the Romans but sometimes different in specifics. Emperors and their family members were particularly common as reverses in the early days; Nero in particular had a strong preference for the busts of both family and gods, to the extent that in the last years of his reign it can be difficult at first glance to work out which is the obverse and which the reverse. On some

of his final pieces both sides are regnally dated, whereas the norm is only one; on either side in the earlier years, although more usually on the reverse after Nero's death.

Rome's familiar gods also appear in profusion, albeit known under their Greek names; but there are also other gods, both Greek and Egyptian, who do not appear in the main Roman series and whose presence here reflects the local sensibilities. One particular Egyptian peculiarity is the canopic jar, used to contain the internal organs removed during mummification. As rendered on coins these appear to Western minds looking more like skittles.

The style of Alexandrian pieces was generally good, albeit with occasional short lapses at intervals due to the recognisable comings and goings of skilled staff; at one point, the impending visit of Hadrian prompted a notable improvement. The reign of Commodus was notable as being a stylistic low point.

Amidst the inevitable sequence of gods and eagles illustrated there lurked some interesting reverses, amongst them in the second century a galley (possibly a reference to an anticipated Imperial visit), the sacred Apis bull of Memphis, and a quadriga. Some of the gods, too, took interesting forms; Artemis holding her bow, the Agathadaemon coiled snake, and Nilus, not standing sacrificing like a conventional god back at Roman headquarters, but reclining on a couch. This last mentioned rendering of the local god is frequent; obviously gods had an easier time of it out in the sticks !

By the third century the tetradrachm was short not only in metallic quality but also the flan size suffered as a result of the empire-wide economic recession, as was illustrated by a graph of the declining weights over several decades. Whereas 12-13gms was the normal weight during

the third quarter by the fourth quarter it had fallen to around 8gms. The reverses became a little less varied after this decline really took hold c. 250, with a huge dominance of eagles and the more common gods. Occasionally there were still some interesting depictions, amongst them a pair from Claudius Gothicus' reign depicting busts of the sun and moon gods, Helios and Selene, and also a rather determined and warlike Poseidon standing menacingly with his foot on a dolphin. Wreathed Vota issues were amongst the few other innovations of this period.

One of the better known later pieces, and quite a common one, depicts the emperor Aurelian on the obverse and Vaballathus, son of the rebel Queen Zenobia of Palmyra, on the reverse, each with their respective regnal years 2 and 5. This indicates that, at the time of issue, Aurelian not only politically acknowledged the latter's imperial status but backdated it into his predecessor's reign.

At the very end of the series, only in the last four or five years, 291-296, officina marks started making their appearance for the first time; or at least, that is what the numerals in the field, 1-4 in Greek letters, are assumed to be. Another quirk of these final days was that each member of the tetrarchy numbered his regnal years from his own accession, rather than from that of the senior emperor as was usually the case; so that, for example, when the series finished in 296, Diocletian was on year 12, Maximinus on 11, and the two Caesars, Galerius and Constantius, each on 4. Maybe a little more logical, however, than back in the previous century when Faustina Junior's earlier coins under Antoninus Pius bore higher regnal numbers than her later ones under Aurelius.

The talk was concluded with a brief mention of two styles of local

coinage which accompanied the main Alexandrian issues. The first of these was those of the nomes, as the subordinate administrative districts of ancient Egypt were known. These pieces, struck in small numbers in certain years only between the eleventh year of Domitian and the eighth of Antoninus Pius (i.e. 91-145 approx), are generally of good metal. They have designs that generally represent an aspect of the local guardian nome god, and are likely to have been manufactured in the Alexandrian mint rather than in the regions themselves.

The second category of local coinage mentioned was the Egyptian equivalent of Rome's informal lead tesserae. There were about four different types of these, of various sizes; mostly struck, but sometimes cast. One type mimics the proper Alexandrian coinage in size and shape; others are dumpy and bullet-like, whilst a third group are thin and neat. An example of the last-mentioned, with the bust of Alexandria on one side and a pleasant rustic depiction of a farmer attending his stock on the other, closed the talk.

London Numismatic Club Meeting, 4 March 2014

This was the occasion of the Club's 66th Annual General Meeting held, as usual, in the Lower Common Room of the Warburg Institute, starting at the earlier time of 6pm.

The President, Tony Gilbert, presented his address, saying that his election as President last year resulted from John Roberts-Lewis, his predecessor, resigning halfway through his third term as President due to ill health. John cannot comfortably leave home without his carer, and the Club wishes him well.

During this past year the Committee has had to face some challenges, both within and without. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary exchanged responsibilities, and our 'landlord', the Warburg

Institute, continued to issue invoices at sporadic intervals rather than on a regular basis, which explains the at times wild swings in expenditure that our Treasurer has to record. The Treasurer has pursued our bankers for up to date statements to fully effect the transfer of the Club's account after the sad loss of our previous Treasurer, Paul Edis (see the Club's last *Newsletter* for his obituary).

During the past year we have lost three members, John Roberts-Lewis through resignation (mentioned above), and two deaths: Robert Seaman, a past Club Treasurer (see last *Newsletter*), and Dr Richard Doty of the Smithsonian Institution. Our current membership now stands at 59. The membership list will be looked at after the current block of standing orders has been paid.

A full programme of eight lectures, and one auction (compiled and gavelled by David Powell), was enjoyed by members. For which our thanks must be extended to our Programme Secretary, David Berry. The Club's *Newsletter* recording all the texts of all the talks given in 2013 had been published in January. The Contents list and Editorial appeared on the site as a taster, and the whole of the previous year was then added.

Under the able directorship of Harold Mernick, the Club's Webmaster, a total of 19,648 visitors to the site had been recorded during the year and about a third of those had gone on to read one or more of the talks recorded in the *Newsletter* that had been posted on the site. The Contents list and Editorial of the current *Newsletter* appeared on the site as a taster, and the whole of the previous year was then added.

The Committee's nominations for the proposed new Committee for 2014-15 were elected 'en bloc' there being no other nominations received (the President entering his second year of his two-year term).

President: Anthony Gilbert

Deputy President: Anthony Portner

Secretary: Gerry Buddle

Treasurer: Philip Mernick

Programme Secretary: David Berry

Newsletter Editor: Peter Clayton

Webmaster: Harold Mernick

Committee: David Powell and Robert Hatch

There then followed the Club's customary Cheese and Wine party

London Numismatic Club Meeting, 1 April 2014

The Club welcomed Bob Thomas, well-known as a member of the Essex Numismatic Society, and Ron Churchill to speak on the Brussels hoard of 1908, the publication of which they were the authors. The hoard had been long known about in numismatic circles, it was almost legendary as 'the hoard in Baldwin's basement', and a number of scholars and collectors had looked at it, but been daunted by its vast numbers and complexity. Bob and Ron had grasped the nettle, and their publication has been hailed as epoch-making.

Workmen found the hoard in July 1908 when they were demolishing parts of a café/tavern in the Rue d'Assaut close to the cathedral of St Michael and St Gudale and the old city wall. The work was in connection with the planned 1910 Brussels Exhibition. The hoard was located in a cellar/basement under a very solid archway (part of original foundations) then supporting a water tank/cistern. That part of the building, formerly a major stone house, was thought to date from the 13th century. The house was also close to a church and a separate adjoining tower owned by a community of nuns – the Dames de Berlaimont.

The coins were in a cauldron/couvercle, which disintegrated when touched, probably because of water seepage in the location. The owner of the land at time of discovery was the café/tavern proprietor M. Coengracht who became the legal owner of the hoard under Belgian Treasure Trove Law

At the time of the discovery there were only low-key reports with more major comment at the time of the auction of the contents in October 1909.

The *Belgian Gazette* of November 1909 (immediately post auction) referred to 150,000 coins of which 80,000 were English from the reign of Henry III (1216-72) including some Scottish and Irish coins with the rest being of continental origin. Various speculative theories for the deposit were also put forward.

A report from Reuters in January 1910 referred to the hoard containing 80,000 English gold coins.

The 'English portion' was bought by A. H. Baldwin who, as fate would have it, had gone over to Brussels a day early for the sale and it is thought that subsequent fog in the Channel could have delayed several possible bidders.

In the original sale catalogue of October 1909 the hoard was listed as just two lots: Continental 63,370, English 80,927. i.e. with a then contemporary value of c. £600 in all or, in today's terms, £4-5m – a bit more than petty cash! Later figures were given as 65,652 and 80,775. The price paid by Baldwins was BF15250, about £900 sterling, or roughly 3d per coin but this was at a time when common Long Cross coins would have sold for under 1/- (5p).

The absolute accuracy of the quoted figures is questionable and this aspect is discussed in Chapter 2 of the book where listings of the 65,652

continental and 80,775 English coins are shown.

It was the autioneer Charles Dupriez who was responsible for the decision to keep the English portion in one lot. The unsorted coins were generally in bags of 1000 and 2000 coins.

Based on the presence or absence of coins, e.g. Ricard l'Espec (Canterbury) and Ion of Burnedisse (Bury St Edmonds), and including various continental issues it is possible that some final coins were added until the container was sealed in or around 1265, but no later than 1267. It is also possible that the property was abandoned or the depositor killed around 1267 when there was severe unrest with the craft guilds rebelling against the city hierarchy.

The question is – who were the original owners? Some possibilities are:

1. The forerunners of the Dames of Berlaimont.

2. Eleanor, Countess of Leicester, sister of Henry III and widow of Simon de Montfort. When she left England after the Battle of Evesham in the autumn of 1265, she took with her a treasure equal to some twelve times the value of the hoard, i.e. 11000 marks = 1.76 million pennies. She is thought to have stayed in the vicinity of Brussels before moving to a convent in which she saw out her days. Could it have been part of her fortune? However, this is unlikely in view of the make up of the hoard.

3. Richard of Cornwall - brother of Henry III and brother-in- law of Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, owner of the very valuable Cornish tin mines that were financed and profited from the re-coinage. His estimated wealth was c. £12 billion – making him the 25th richest Briton of all time.

There is no doubt that he had high ambitions in Europe and was King of the Romans from 1257, but his ambitions had waned by the mid-

1260s. He was also de Montfort's prisoner after the Battle of Lewes from 14 May to 6 Sept 1265. He was in the Brabant later, but not before late 1267 or early 1268.

4. Pay for troops around at the time of the uprising – but the hoard is possibly either too large or too strong in English content rather than local content.

5. Payment to the Pope – St Peter's Pence, but there is nothing on record.

6. A wealthy merchant/financier/member of the city ruling families.

Trade could explain the most likely source and the make up involving English wool merchants and continental cloth merchants.

Another possibility is the T'Serclaes family. It is known that the ancestors of this existing high status Brussels family owned a large stone house in the immediate area of the find and, whilst it cannot be proved with certainty that they were there in the 1260s, it is very likely. At that time only very few merchant and/or financier families would have developed business, financial and political dominance. However, in the last quarter of the 13th century there was turmoil and violence when the craft guilds rioted and members of the ruling classes may well have been driven (albeit temporarily) from their properties, probably with some loss of life. Nicholas T'Serclaes, the head of the family at that time, who could have been the owner and depositor of the hoard, was dead by 1282 and the current head of the family, Count de T'Serclaes suggests the 'killing' of Nicholas or others of his family during the troubles could explain why the hoard was 'lost' to later generations.

A small road, little more than an alley, used to link Rue d'Arenburg with Rue d'Assaut where it emerged close to the café where the hoard was found. For several hundred years it was known as Rue T'Serclaes but it hadbeen re-named by 1908 and disappeared in recent redevelopments.

Later figures for the contents and reasons for variations

The Continental portion of 65,652 coins shows an increase over the catalogue figure and this may be as the result of the recovery of some coins stolen before the sale (Albert Baldwin acquired an additional 2000 English coins shortly after the sale), or the identification of some continental pieces from amongst the English portion. It is also possible that the difference of 2,282 may have reduced the English portion (formerly 80,927) by a similar amount before it was increased by the additional 2000 pieces – the exact totals will never be known for certain. Of the continental coins that were scheduled then most were melted. None was retained by either the finder or local museums.

The English portion has been quoted at 80,775 to take account of the effects of the above and includes an estimate for 25,500 coins melted and/or stolen. Ron and Bob had examined, identified and listed every one of the remaining 55,275.

Work started on the hoard in October 1999 and it has taken over ten years to complete it for publication in Autumn 2012.

Much of the rough sorting, and some of the fine sorting, was carried out previously by Robin Davis and Chris Wren. A cabinet similar to one holding printers type – 40 trays with over 1000 square compartments was an essential tool. There were boxes, envelopes and bags, some holding up to 2000 mainly unsorted coins. Late in the day a box of 963 assorted coins and a cabinet containing over 600 Scottish coins made an appearance.

The aim was**:**

1. To produce a detailed report of the contents of the hoard.

2. To schedule the contents broken down as to: genuine English Long

Cross coins; Scottish and Irish coins; continental coins/imitations and petits deniers, etc, which were possibly included by mistake. Also sundry coins including Short Cross, etc.

3. To produce a revised classification of the Long Cross coinage. The Lawrence classification has been around now for almost 100 years and we must remember that, whilst Lawrence did have a brief access to some of the Brussels coins, including those of 5e which were previously unknown, he was, in the main, working with 19th century statistics which, not long before, had put with sceptre coins ahead of the non sceptre ones. The existence of class 1a was also then a recent discovery which lead him to renumber what is now called 1b as 1* with the new coin as class 1.

4. To investigate the authenticity of coins from classes 5d and 5e.

5. To compare the contents of the Brussels hoard with other Long Cross finds.

6. To look for signs of obverse dies appearing at more than one mint – there were no genuine coins found but a few continental imitations, including some so-called provincial coins, with class 5 obverses, did occur.

The achievement was the production of a detailed report containing:

1. A listing of all coins by mint, moneyer, class and reverse reading. London alone runs to 26 sheets – London 1180 lines, Canterbury 685 and Bury 81 dies.

2. Detailed listings and historical notes for all provincial mints.

3. Some die studies namely – London (Classes 1a and 1b), Bury St Edmunds, Shrewsbury, Durham, Canterbury (Ambroci and Alein) and Wallingford (by courtesy of Mike Shott).

4. The identification of every one of the 55,275 coins studied effectively confirms that badly blundered and illegible coins were melted.

5. Weights of a sample of some 20,000 coins present.

6. Tables of metal analyses of a mix of coins including some thought to be genuine, together with some which were possibly 'suspect', including coins from classes 5d and 5e, and some other coins that were certainly of continental origin.

7. The discovery of a design feature, i.e. the varieties of the mintmark star, which helps confirm chronology and the classes to which certain coins belong.

8. The introduction of a limited number of new sub classes combined with the retention of most existing classes despite some being from either a very limited number of dies, i.e. 5a1 and 5b1 (retained), or 5a4 (introduced), or having minor variations of lettering, etc. i.e. 5a2, 5a3, 5b2 and 5c (retained) and 5c1, 2 and 3 (introduced).

9. The division of the Long Cross coinage in the name of Henry III into four chronological phases.

10. A comparison of parts of the Brussels Hoard with like segments from other hoards including Colchester. For example, it is possible to show this in table comparisons of coins of classes 2 and 3. Similarities then show of the percentages between the two main hoards. The dates of closure (5c for Colchester and 5g for Brussels) were not that far apart.

11. The discovery of coins previously unknown for their class for certain mints and moneyers.

12. The inclusion of sections covering the gold penny (this and the great seal being the work of the London moneyer William of Gloucester) and of the two-penny pieces.

13. The inclusion of all coins of the Voided Long Cross series produced after the closure of Brussels, i.e. from late 5g to class 7, including some coins not previously known or known only from poor or cut specimens.

They include one of three 5h coins now known for 5h for Roger of Canterbury; a full coin of class 6 for Renaud of London only known before 1969 from two coins of Bury St Edmunds, one of Durham and a cut half for London. Recently a cut half of Durham, and another of London have come to light, and a clear example of a class 6 for Ion of Bury showing the make up of the beard and eyes.

The Colchester Hoard had 14,076 coins, reported in BM 87, i.e. then worth £58.13.0. or 4d short of 88 marks. The container was of a style designed to hold 100 marks (16,000 coins) and there seems no doubt that the owner knew precisely what was in it. The assumption is that at one stage it was full and that 24 marks were removed at some point and then 12 marks (1920 coins – all die duplicates of the Bury class VI coins), were put in as a part replacement. It was stated at the time of discovery, but later denied, that the workmen, in their excitement threw some coins in the air but it seems that four coins from the top of the canister, i.e. four of the Bury coins, were lost at the time.

In recent years metal detectorist have unearthed many Long and Short Cross coins which have more than trebled the known specimens of class 7 for Renaud of London. And, from early in the series, the first known 2a/1b mule appeared. 1b/2a mules for London and Canterbury are plentiful and are adequate proof that class 2a reverse dies were issued to the main mints prior to the issue of 2a obverse dies. Mules of 1a/2a are unknown and, prior to 2006, it was assumed class 1b obverse dies were withdrawn prior to the issue of class 2a obverse dies as no 2a/1b mules were known until a specimen was discovered in southern England, but no more have appeared since.

14. The drafting of a new section of the Spink *Standard Catalogue* for 2014.

15. A detailed schedules of 3750 continental imitations, far and away the largest group ever assembled. Jeffery North was able to examine only approximately 300 coins for his study. These coins are still with Baldwins and represent a perfect opportunity for study.

16. The authors survived as a partnership being of the same generation, similar educational background, by being a spur and a support for each other, by a constant need to compromise, many 'vigorous' discussions took place but no arguments, by regarding the project as a whole as being more important than the individual contributions.

17. A new classification has emerged based on the existing well-known Lawrence format but with a detailed discussion of more radical changes based on the four phases of production. This 'Alternative' classification is reported at length in Chapter 3 in the book.

18. The book, edited by Dr Martin Allen, is now finished with publication in 2012, 104 years since the discovery of the hoard in 1908.

Some of the more interesting coins in the hoard, and including some that are recent finds not in the hoard are:

- 1a London – featured on the cover of the book
- 1b London – the first Long Cross coin to show the mint name
- 1b Bury St Edmunds – two in the hoard but not seen by the authors
- 4a David of London – seven in the hoard
- 5a4 Nicole of Canterbury – three in the hoard
- 5b1 Nicole of London – fifteen in the hoard
- 5e Walter of London – also on the cover of the book
- 5g Thomas of London - one in the hoard
- 5g Robert of London - none in the hoard
- 5h Renaud of London – none in the hoard

5i Renaud of London – none in the hoard

6 Robert of Durham - none in the hoard – but this coin was found by a metal detectorist and bought off e-Bay for £25!

7. Class 7 Phelip of London – neat style – none in the hoard

8. Class 7 coin of Phelip – bushy style – none in the hoard

9. Phelip of London, one with a double-headed sceptre and one with an Edward style of crown. Phelip de Cambio was executed in 1278 as, on his own initiative, he raised the levels of copper in the mix from six to 8.5 pence per pound. However, in 1279, in Edward's re-coinage, the rate of 8.75 pence per pound became the new standard!

Bob and Ron showed an extensive series of slides not only of the coins but also contemporary and modern views of the area in Brussels where the hoard was found.

[Ron Churchill and Bob Thomas. *The Brussels Hoard of 1908. The Long Cross Coinage of Henry III*. British Numismatic Society Special Publication no. 9. 2012. xx + 384pp, numerous colour and b/w illus, tables. Hardback, £50]

London Numismatic Club Meeting, 3 June 2014

This meeting was the occasion of the annual Members' Own. Only 11 members were present, and three of them gave short presentations.

Tony Gilbert, the Club's President, showed a framed watercolour by the coin artist Richard O'Connell, executed in colour on heavy laid paper. The subject matter was taken from the First Coinage Head of King George III (1760-1820). Tony passed the painting around the members to compare it with the illustration of the coin in an old Seaby *Standard*

Catalogue of British Coins. He had purchased this framed painting from the artist after he had delivered a talk and demonstration of his work at the BANS Congress held at Caerleon in April 1995. Members much appreciated the opportunity to see the watercolour and draw comparisons with the black and white illustration in the catalogue.

Peter Clayton showed a Roman Red Ware lamp from Christian North Africa, together with a large bronze coin (AE 43) of Ptolemy IV, Philopater, of Egypt, 211-204 BC. The lamp had probably been made in the potteries at El Djem, Tunisia, and the site of the sixth largest Roman amphitheatre after the Colosseum in Rome. The potteries had operated from around the mid-fourth century AD until the Roman province was overrun by the Vandals c. AD 425.

The Christian Red Ware lamps of North Africa show a variety of subjects on their discus, mainly animals, birds and fishes but also subjects from the amphitheatre and the Old and New Testaments (although one did carry a unique illustration from Homer's *Iliad* of Achilles dragging the body of the dead Hector around the walls of Troy). The lamp shown bore the Chi-Rho monogram on its discus, representing the first two letters of the name of Christ in Greek. This is not uncommon on this series of lamps, or the simpler Christogram. It is frequently found on coins of the House of Constantine (and later) on the helmets worn by the emperor or on the labarum (a military standard) carried by him.

Now, to turn to the bronze coin of Ptolemy IV, struck in the mint of Alexandria. It has the normal obverse type of the bearded head of Zeus facing right and reverse an eagle, the badge of the Ptolemaic dynasty, standing left. Around the eagle the coin is identified in Greek as of being of King Ptolemy. Between the eagle's legs in this series appear a number of marks or letters, often the Greek D (delta) or E (epsilon), probably

denoting a mint master rather than an officina as is found on late Roman coins. The coin shown was one with a rather rare mark – a very prominent chi-rho monogram between the eagle's legs. As an overtly adopted Christian symbol appearing on a coin some 200 years before Christ it raises a number of questions as to its interpretation – it obviously cannot be Christian, but what does it stand for, a mint master whose name began Chr… perhaps?

As Peter remarked, it was rather a conundrum, and sparked some considerable discussion amongst members present.

Philip Mernick apologised by saying that his presentation might appear to be 'self advertisement', but he went on to demonstrate how a useful web site can be produced for a specialist series, where normal publication would be prohibitively expensive. Another benefit of web publication being the ability to continually update the site, as new material appeared, largely from metal detectorists.

Philip had wanted to create a catalogue of jettons over the last 20 to 30 years, and the advent of electronic recording on a web site had made this feasible, as against trying to compile a book. The web site is able to explain what are jettons, and how they were used on a counting board. Numismatically they were first recorded in the 1746 publication of the Pembroke collection. There had been argument whether they should be ascribed to King Richard or not in 1756, and they were called 'black money'. Snelling, in the 1760s, described them as 'jettons or counters' but did not recognize them as English and as late as 1916 Barnard had called them Anglo-Gallic.

In the *Numismatic Chronicle* of 1938 L.A. Lawrence recognised them as being English from the punches used and by the round mark in the centre of the piece (cf. as are found on Ptolemaic bronze coins and

discussed by David Sellwood in the *NC* in more recent years). They all appear to have been die struck, sometimes with as many as 20 to 30 reverses linked to one obverse die. Philip then showed on the screen how this could be displayed in spread sheet format. The web site contains a comprehensive listing of all known English jettons (only produced during the reigns of Edward I, II and III) but new examples will almost certainly surface.

London Numismatic Club Meeting, 1 July 2014

The Club welcomed Dr Andrew Burnett, FBA, FSA, a member of the Club, the President of the Royal Numismatic Society, previously the Keeper of the Department of Coins and Medals in the British Museum and subsequently Deputy Director of the Museum. Andrew had chosen as the title of his talk, 'Britain's First Numismatist'. This turned out to be Sir Thomas Smith (1513-77), a name totally unknown to members present and, indeed, to the numismatic world at large since he was better known in the world of politics. The study of numismatics had never really been a focus of English scholars of the period, and was perhaps mostly an adjunct to mathematics and the metrology involved.

First, some background to Smith. He was born at Saffron Walden, Essex, and was educated at Queens' College, Cambridge, where he became a Fellow in 1530, public reader (i.e. professor) in 1533, and lectured in natural philosophy and Greek. He went abroad in 1540, took a degree in law in Padua, and returned to Cambridge in 1542. In 1543/4 he became the first Regius Professor of Civil Law, and in 1547 he became Provost of Eton College and Dean of Carlisle Cathedral. He was a convert to Protestant views under the young king Edward V and subsequently became Secretary of State. Sent abroad omissions, he was knighted in 1548. However, under Catholic Queen Mary he lost all his

offices; only to return successfully under Elizabeth I, where he was prominent in public affairs, ambassador to France, 1562-66, and became one of Elizabeth's most trusted counsellors, being appointed Chancellor of the Order of the Garter in 1572. He was variously Member of Parliament for Marlborough, 1547; Grampound, 1553; Liverpool, 1559, and his home county of Essex in 1571 and 1572.

His house, Hill Hall, built at Theydon Mount, in Essex 1568-77, still stands, and is reckoned to be amongst the earliest Renaissance houses in England. It was used as a prison, 1947 to1952, damaged by fire in 1969, and now, in the care of English Heritage, it is divided into private houses but parts are open to the public by appointment. Thomas Smith was married twice – in 1548, and, after his wife's death in 1553, again in 1554, his second wife dying in 1578. He had no heirs from either marriage and died on 12 August 1577. He was buried in Theydon Mount church where his recumbent effigy can still be seen.

So here was a prominent scholar, diplomat and courtier, but where does numismatics come in. His major work was *De Republica Anglorum: The Maner of Gouernemenet or Policie of the Realm of England*, written between 1562 and 1565, published in 1583, and reprinted posthumously in 1609 as *The Comon-wealth of England*.

Yet, Thomas Smith can be recognised as the author of Britain's first focussed numismatic book, although it was never published as such and is known via several manuscripts, noted later. The 'working title' of the 'book' is usually given as 'On the wages of the Roman foot soldier'. In the 16th century coins were partly seen as an adjunct to mathematics, and there was a concern with their metrology as well as an understanding or study of numismatics *per se*. It is not until the 18th century that numismatics really makes an appearance in Britain.

Smith's numismatic work exists in three main manuscripts, two held in the British Library (Additional and Harleian MS), and one in the Society of Antiquaries of London. There are also some manuscript notes preserved in Queens' College, Cambridge. Curiously, all three manuscript copy lack the complete final chapter 30, although part of it is in the Queens' College autograph. Smith does not appear to have retained a complete copy of his book himself as in a letters not long before his death he says how he had asked various recipients of copies for copies of their copies, or the originals, back for himself. Amongst those who received copies of the work were William Cecil (Lord Burghley) and Robert Dudley (Earl of Essex), both of them being interested in mathematics, again attesting to the link between mathematics and numismatics.

The analysis of the three manuscript copies and inter-collating them was quite complex, and is being carried out by Deborah Thorpe. The title has been variously given as 'The Wages of a Roman Foot Soldier', or as 'A Treatise on the Money of the Romans'. Both are apposite in relation to the contents of the book, which covers both topics, claim and in a letter of 1576 it was described as 'a book on the value of the English Standards'. This seems to be one of the real purposes of the study, mentioning the aforesaid wages, parallels with English standards, weights of the coins and systems in antiquity, and their relationship with the contemporary English. There also appears to have been many metrological tables. Smith can be seen to be a deeply knowledgeable classical scholar, quoting a huge number of classical authors, both Greek and Latin, that mention coins and monetary matters.

His working method, moving on from quoting classical sources, was to examine and weigh coins in his own collection – that is why he

wrote that doctors are better than lawyers in producing detailed weights! There are references to English monetary changes in the reigns of Henry II, John, Henry III, Henry VII, and Edward VI, together with observations on coinage matters in Europe from a wide variety of sources, ancient and contemporary, and he particularly comments on the latter.

Some of the ancient coins Smith refers to were in his own collection and included second and first century BC Roman Republican silver denarii with detailed descriptions and interpretations, of their types and relevant moneyers, together with very precise weights. He makes tables of the different standards of the denarius, their number struck to the Roman pound and their postulated equivalent to English coins. Particularly interesting is his reference to and description of a DE BRITANN gold aureus of Claudius which, he writes, 'was founde by one plowing beside the windemill in Saffron Walden my native town about the yere of our Lorde 1537.' This Claudius aureus is the first recorded Roman gold coin from Britain, as we can see from Roger Bland's recent (2010) book on finds of Roman and Byzantine gold coins in Britain.

Although Smith cites Greek monetary matters he doesn't appear to have owned any Greek coins. His Roman coins are mainly Republican denarii, and also denarii of Nero, Vespasian, Hadrian, Trajan, Severus Alexander and Constantine. He also mentions other coins that were clearly his, 'for I have certain coins of Ethelred, or others before the Conquest', as well as groats and pennies of Edward, where his interest seemed to lie mainly in their metrology. His discussion included the suggestion that Rome and Britain were surprisingly close monetarily, comparing the weights of their coins and pounds, and he mentioned also problems of counterfeiting, washing and clipping, debasement, and "Gresham's Law" (that bad coin drives out good).

Smith left his classical books to Queens' College, but only a few can now be identified. Sadly none of the coins can be traced today. It was reported that 'on his death his heirs quarrelled over the disposal of his collection which was described as 'divers pieces of old coins and silver called antiquities of the Roman Empires and other strange pieces of gold coins and silver valued at over two hundred pounds.'

There appears to have been an informal 16th century Cambridge 'numismatic circle', with at least about eight members, principally Smith and including notables such as William Cecil (Lord Burghley) and Roger Ascham, later to be tutor to Elizabeth I; many were at St John's College.

A letter written by Sir Robert Cotton in 1626 on the great re-coinage of 1560-61 reads: 'a memorial of the Lord Treasurer Burghley's hand, I find that he and Sir Thomas Smith (a grave and learned man) advising the Queen that it was the honour of her Crown and the true welth of herself and People to reduce the standard to the ancient parity and purity of her great grandfather Edward IV … she followed their advice.' But was he right?

William Camden (1551-1623) the great historian of British antiquity, wrote in 1615: 'Sir Thomas Smith also, one of the Queenes Secretaries … a man worthy to be remembered for his manifold learning.' Mary Dewar, his modern biographer, wrote: 'This is a curiously involved treatise drawing heavily on his classical learning and developing into a long, learned, and scholarly disquisition on the value of Roman money by English standards. The book shows him well acquainted with all the classical and modern foreign writers on money … the treatise is quite uncontroversial. Indeed the remoteness of the topic … was an academic exercise recalling pleasanter days of scholarly meditation and success.' (p. 87.)

Andrew showed several portraits of Sir Thomas Smith and objects, engravings and places associated with him, including his personal seal now in the British Museum, together with pages from the various manuscripts of his book to illustrate comparisons.

Further reading.

Dewar, Mary. *Sir Thomas Smith; A Tudor Intellectual in Office*. Athlone Press, University of London, 1964.

London Numismatic Club Meeting, 2 September 2014

This evening's talk was entitled 'Treasure - Mainly the Coins'. Peter Clayton, a Past-President of the Club, currently the Honorary Editor of its Newsletter, and a Past-President of the British Association of Numismatic Societies, presented it.

Peter's expertise in his subject matter arose from his appointment in 1992 as Expert Advisor (coins and antiquities) and Provisional Valuer to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and he was subsequently appointed in 2006 by the Minister of State to be a member of the Treasure Valuation Committee at the British Museum.

Peter first explained the basic provisions of the Treasure Act 1996 that became law on 24 September 1997. Previously treasure had been governed by the Law of Treasure Trove, not Statute Law but actually operated as Common Law, essentially from 1172 under Richard II. The Treasure Act 1996, as relating to coins, says that two coins or more of precious metal and more than 300 years old can be deemed to be Treasure subsequent to a Coroner's Inquest. Similarly, 10 or more base metal coins of similar age are likewise Treasure. All Treasure is the property of the Crown but since 1886 a 'reward', the market value of the Treasure, including coins, was paid to be divided equally between the finder and the landowner (unless there are any mitigating circumstances). The

amount is not subject to income tax, Capital Gains Tax, etc. Prior to the 1996 Act the Treasury funded the rewards when a museum expressed an interest in acquisition, subsequent to the Act any museum expressing interest had to find the funding themselves; failing that the coins can be disclaimed and returned to the persons involved. The Treasure Valuation Committee, noting any variations such as an abatement that would be relevant, makes recommendations of the market value, based on the provisional valuers' submissions, to the Secretary of State.

Peter intended to pick out a number of coin finds chronologically and many that had interesting stories or points behind them, but not all would necessarily be of high value. Iron Age coins in Britain start in the late second century BC. Amongst the earliest, and certainly not the most attractive, is a hoard of 61 gold staters of the Dobunni tribe found at Farmborough, Somerset, in 1984; it is still the largest known hoard of these staters. In 1996 at Alton, Hampshire, two separate hoards of first century BC/AD Iron Age coins were found. Hoard A contained 50 gold staters of the kings Commius, Tincommius and Epillus; Hoard B had 206 gold staters of Verica, Tincommius and 'Tincomarus'. The clear legend on the latter, unique coin, translated literally as 'Big Fish', and rewrote the history books. In December 2011 at Beech, not far from Alton, a hoard of gold staters with coins of Verica (96), Epaticcus (6), and Cunobelin (1), was found. Because of the predominant motif of a vine leaf on the coins of Verica it was called 'The Vine Leaf Hoard'. Declared Treasure, the hoard was disclaimed as neither the British Museum nor the local museum at Alton showed interest in acquiring it as the coins were already well represented in both collections by the Alresford (c. 1880) and the Alton (1996) hoards. The hoard was acquired commercially and the coins sold at an average of around £1000 apiece.

Amongst the great hoard of Iron Age gold torcs, bracelets and ingots found in a lavender field at Snettisham, Norfolk, partly between 1948-50 and in a later excavation in November 1990, there were 158 coins that were critical in dating the hoard to the late first century BC. The whole hoard is displayed in the British Museum's Prehistoric Gallery.

Turning to Roman Britain, Republican Roman coins are occasionally found and particularly examples of the legionary denarii struck by Marc Antony for paying his troops at the battle of Actium in 31 BC. Two very worn examples of such denarii were found at Northchurch, Hemel Hempstead, in 2012. Because there were two coins, both silver and over 300 years old, they were declared to be Treasure. However, the curious thing was that they were found on their own when these denarii are normally found included in hoards of Imperial early silver Roman coins because of their high silver content – so, where are the rest of the coins since these surely came from a hoard ?

Probably the earliest Roman Imperial hoard from Britain, buried no later than AD 40, was found at Bredgar, Kent, in 1957. It consisted of 37 gold aurei. One was of Julius Caesar and the rest were of Augustus and Claudius. It probably represented the cash of a Roman officer involved in the Claudian invasion of AD 43, buried for safety before the battle of the crossing of the river Medway, and never recovered. Found by workmen who endeavoured to conceal it, it was confiscated and is displayed in the Roman Britain Gallery in the British Museum. Nearby in the gallery is an interesting selection of contemporary fake silver denarii of Claudius. Found in Essex, they were declared Treasure because of their metal content; a number of examples were bought by museums and the remainder disclaimed and went into the market.

The hoard of 160 gold aureii found in excavations on 4 September 1911 at the Roman fort of Corbridge on Hadrian's Wall is still the largest hoard of Roman aurei found in Britain; the coins ranged from Nero to Antoninus Pius. There were also two AE of Trajan and Hadrian that had been used to stopper the bronze jug in which the coins were found. In London, in January 2001, excavations by the Museum of London in Plantation Place found a hoard of 43 aurei in a small stone box in the corner of a room. They were similar in date to the Corbridge hoard, ranging from AD 65 to 174. It should be noted that according to the Treasure Act 1996 any archaeologists or persons gainfully employed in an excavation when treasure is found are not eligible for any part of an agreed reward.

When Bonhams auctioneers were holding a valuation day at Woodstock, Oxfordshire, in April 1995, a first time metal detectorist brought in a group of 126 coins for identification – he didn't know what they were. Daniel Fearon, Bonham's' numismatic expert present that day, immediately identified them as gold aurei ranging in date from Vespasian to Trajan. He put the Treasure Trove inquest in train, and the reward paid to the finder and landowner amounted to £141,850.

Back in the village of Snettisham, Norfolk, George Onslow was cutting a foundation trench for some new houses when he observed the neck of a grey pottery jug in the base of the trench. Dug out, it was about nine inches high and held a quantity of gold and silver finger rings, loose carnelian intaglios and 111 coins. The contents were identified as being part of a jeweller's stock in trade, and included 83 silver denarii (including 74 of Vespasian) and 27 AE, mainly of Domitian. It was realised that the denarii represented good silver that the jeweller intended to melt down to make more rings similar to the snake rings in the hoard,

and that the bronze coins represented the jeweller's own current small change. The hoard was declared Treasure on 29 January 1986, but had been found on land that belonged to the Duchy of Lancaster, one of the four franchise exceptions to the old Treasure Trove law as well as being still recognized by the new 1996 Act (the others being the Duchy of Cornwall, and the cities of Bristol and London). An ex-gratia non-treasure payment of £31,001 was agreed and the builders, Wagg and Jex, donated the treasure element to the British Museum and the non-treasure element to the finder. Together it makes an interesting display in the British Museum' Roman Britain Gallery.

Excavations at the Shapwick villa, Somerset, in September1998, produced a hoard of Roman silver denarii weighing nearly 30kg. It consisted of 9,238 denarii (amongst which were 25 contemporary forgeries) ranging from worn examples of Marc Antony down to Severus Alexander (222-235), and there was a preponderance of coins of the Severan dynasty. The hoard had been concealed by being literally walled up by a couple of slabs of stone in the corner of a room in the villa, probably around AD 224. It was declared Treasure at an inquest on 9 November 1999, and is the largest hoard of silver denarii found in Britain to date.

Between October 1998 and August 1999 conservator Simon Dove spent 165 hours working on the hoard. Valued at £265,000, it was acquired by the Somerset Museum in Taunton where it is displayed. Since the hoard was the product of an archaeological excavation the archaeologists concerned, as per the Treasure Act 1996, were not eligible for the finders' half of the hoard's value.

In November 2007 during development work in Beau Street, Bath,

just 150 metres away from the Roman Baths, a large and very intriguing hoard was found. It consisted of 17,500 coins, but careful excavation and recording showed that the coins had been deposited in eight separate bags. They had been carefully sorted by the owner so that bag no. 1, held 3737 silver denarii ranging from Marc Antony to Gordian III, c. AD 250. Other bags held good barbarous radiates up to the 260s, and further bags contained less good radiates from the 260s to 270s. The bags had been buried c. 274. Declared Treasure at an Inquest in June 2008, after initial cleaning and conservation the hoard's value was declared to be £372,500 in March 2014, and it is now in the Roman Baths Museum.

If any coin of precious metal is over 300 years old and adapted in any way to form jewellery, then it becomes Treasure. A good example was a large gold ring set with an aureus of the Gallic usurper Postumus (259-268) found at Poringland near Norwich, Norfolk. The coin itself is very rare, and so are such coin-set rings in Britain, although they are quite common finds on the Continent. Only one other gold coin-set ring is known from Britain; set with an aureus of Severus Alexander, it was found at Ilchester, Somerset, in the nineteenth century. Both rings are displayed together in the British Museum. The Postumus ring was valued at £20,000.

An enormous grey-ware pot filled with base metal Roman coins, weighing 160kg, 3.14cwt, 25.12 stone, was found on 11 April 2011 at Frome, Somerset. Containing 52,501 coins it is the largest single pot hoard of Roman coins found in Britain. Fortunately the find was rapidly reported as soon as the finder realised what he had and British Museum archaeologists subsequently excavated the pot and coins. (The largest hoard of Roman coins found in Britain was at Cunetio, Marlborough, Wilts, in 1978, and consisted of two pots containing 54,951 coins.) The

Frome coins ranged in date from AD 253 to 293, representing base metal coins of 16 emperors of the Central Empire (14,788); 28,377 of the Gallic Empire (i.e. usurpers); 12,416 of Tetricus I, and 766 bronze and five silver denarii of the British usurper emperor Carausius (285-293), these five each with a different reverse type. Some 8,258 coins were illegible. In October 2010 the hoard was valued at £325,000 and acquired by the Somerset County Museum in Taunton. However, cleaning and conservation, which will probably take at least another year, is currently running at an additional cost of over £100,000.

A major find of two gold aurei of Carausius was made at Ashbourne, Derby, in 2007. Being gold coins and two, hence Treasure according to the 1996 Act and a hoard, they added to the previously known 23 gold coins of the emperor. One, a known type with laureate head, Rouen mint, was acquired by the Derby Museum for £55,000. The other, a unique coin with a helmeted head obverse, and of the London mint, went to the British Museum for £145,000. Fortunately the two coins had been found together. Had there only been a single coin found, under the 1996 Treasure Act, it would not have been classed as Treasure, and could have disappeared into the market. One of the major revisions to the 1996 Act being sought at present is to have all single gold coins found that are over 300 years old are to be classed as treasure.

At Sandridge, St Albans, a first time metal detectorist found 55 late Roman gold solidi on 23 September 2012. He immediately notified the Verulamium, St Albans, Museum, who sought the permission of the landowner to investigate further, and on 28/29th to 1st October a further 104 solidi were found – making a total of 159 coins. There were 97 solidi of Honorius (383-408); 43 of Arcadius (393-423), and 19 were of other

emperors. All were in VF to EF condition, except for four of Honorius that, curiously, had been bent over almost in the style of a medieval love token. The hoard was valued at £980,850 but, since the finder had been detecting (in effect, trespassing) without the landowner's permission (admittedly not knowing who the landowner was), the Treasure Valuation Committee therefore recommended to the Secretary of State an abatement in the reward of 10% of the finder's share, making £54,367.50 to the landowner, £44,482.50 to the finder.

The greatest hoard of Roman treasure and coins found in Britain was made at Hoxne, Suffolk, on 16 November 1992. Consisting of much gold jewellery and silver table implements, it is only the coins that concern us here. The hoard was declared to be Treasure Trove at the Coroner's Inquest in Lowestoft on 3 September 1993. The delay was due to the fact that a certain amount of cleaning and conservation had to be carried out before a full report could be made available to the Coroner. The coins amounted to 580 gold solidi of Valentinian I to Honorius (mainly from the Milan mint); 60 large silver miliarenses from Constantine II to Eugenius; 14,119 silver siliquae, which is the largest known group from the Roman world; and five rare half-siliquae. The latest coins in the hoard were two siliquae of the usurper emperor Constantine III (407-411) from the Trier mint, which gave a satisfactory dating for the deposition of the hoard. The whole hoard was valued at £1.75 million.

Turning to early medieval coins a group was found in August 1939 in the purse in the great Anglo-Saxon ship burial at Sutton Hoo, Woodbridge, Suffolk. There were 37 specially selected gold thrymsas, each from a different Continental mint, three coin blanks and two small ingots. It has been suggested that the coins and blanks thus making up 40

represented payment to the ghostly oarsmen, 20 each side, in the ship, and the two ingots were for the captain and the helmsman.

The Vale of York hoard was found on 6 January 2007 by a father and son detecting on their own land. The find consisted of an engraved small silver bowl, 4 3/4ins, 12cms in diameter, into which 67 items had been stuffed including a gold arm ring, three silver arm rings, a silver ingot and other small items, and 617 Anglo-Saxon silver pennies. It had been deposited soon after 927, probably by 929 at the latest. The coins included pennies of Alfred the Great (Winchester mint); Edward the Elder (Alfred's son, Derby mint), and Athelstan (Edward's son, York mint). The bowl was valued at £310,000; the coins at £750,000, and the other items at £22,800. The total was £1,082,000.

Most notable amongst medieval coins hoards was that found by workmen at Fishpool near Newstead Abbey, Notts, on 22 March 1966. This consisted of a small group of gold jewellery and 1237 gold coins. The hoard had been deposited c. 1463-4, during the Wars of the Roses. Some of the workmen had endeavoured to conceal the find, which was declared Treasure Trove in December 1966. There were gold coins of Edward III (27); Richard II (12); Henry IV (38); Henry V (266), and Henry VI (606). Of the 63 coins of Edward IV, 62 were heavy nobles, only four examples having been previously known, and there was a unique quarter noble. Also included were 202 foreign gold coins and two forgeries of coins of Henry IV. It was by producing some of these latter coins, unknowingly, for identification and sale to a major London coin dealer that gave the game away. The finders of those coins that had been properly declared were rewarded; 15 of the coins were bought by museums, 85 were returned and sold at Glendinings on 17 October 1968, realising £84,945. The remainder of the hoard, with the jewellery, was

confiscated and is now displayed in the British Museum's Medieval Gallery.

A very small hoard of 16 coins, groats of Henry VI (1); Henry VII (14, including a half groat), and Henry VIII (1), was found on the Common at Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, in February 2011, and valued at £800. The young lad finder was using a metal detector without permission on Dacorum Borough Council land (on which metal detecting was banned and identified by a public notice) and he had also attempted to clean the coins. An abatement of 10% was recommended because of these two transgressions against the 1996 Act and it was pointed out that all land, even if designated 'Common land', is owned by someone.

A curious coin find was made in the thatch of an old cottage in the village of Chilton Foliat, near Ramsbury, Wiltshire, in 1966. It was a blue and white German Westwald pot that contained a Charles I hammered half-crown, and 60 Charles II crowns and half crowns. The total contemporary face value was £9.12.6d, a considerable amount at the time the pot was hidden.

Peter had handled most of the hoards of which he had spoken (and they were only a selection of hoards of some interest), and he had therefore the privilege and the opportunity to take the series of colour slides that he showed in support of the talk.

A display of several of the British Museum publications relating to some of the hoards mentioned was on the table.

London Numismatic Club Meeting, 7 October 2014

The Club welcomed Graham Kirby, already known to several members who had attended the first Historical Medallions Congress at Warwick in June. Graham's talk to the Club was on 'Methodist History Through Medallions'.

Graham said that he had been a coin collector since about the age of eight, and was later to spend some 37 years working in banking. He had a special interest in the commemorative medallions relating to Methodism and noted that coin collecting is a fascinating recreation. It requires little physical exertion and only as much mental effort as one wishes to give at any time. Numismatics has vast scope and boundless ramifications and byways. It encompasses not only things historical and geographical, but also touches on economics, metallurgy, heraldry, literature, the fine arts, politics, military history and many other disciplines [*Coins of England,* Introduction, Spink].

The day was Wednesday 2 March 1791; the previous day the Emperor Leopold of Prussia had died. In France the revolution had begun. In Eastern Europe a new great power, Russia, was emerging from her isolation. And in the West the United States, no longer a British Colony, had become a nation. In the bedroom of John Wesley's house in City Road, London, none of these things mattered. An old man of 87 was coming to the end of a lifetime that had nearly spanned a century. The previous day he had often said, 'The best of all is, God is with us!' Soon those words would be engraved on portraits and medallions, written below busts and statues, and worked in needlework samplers (Wesleyania as all this is now known), as a wave of thanksgiving for his life and God's mercy swept over Methodism.

The Revd John Wesley was born on 17 June 1703. Often this statement appears on medallions that are, for most collectors, their introduction to the medallions of Methodism.

John Wesley was the 15th out of 19 children, and his mother, Mrs Susanna Wesley teaching her son John at her knee, and the legend 'Feed my lambs' appears as the reverse design of a Sunday-school Centenary

medallion of 1866 featuring, Dickenson College, America.

Wesley's father Samuel was Rector in Epworth, Lincolnshire. In his preaching Samuel was far too strict for the liking of his simple parishioners and he was never popular. The Tercentenary Celebration Medallion from the Methodist Publishing House shows the famous scene on 9 February 1709 when hostile villagers set fire to the rectory. All the family escaped except John, and it was only the quick thinking of one John Brown in suggesting a human ladder that saved the child, and brought forth Susannah Wesley's phrase that her son was a 'brand plucked from the burning.'

John Wesley was educated at Charterhouse School that appears on both a gold and silver prize medal with an inscription in Greek above it that translates as 'Hold to the good'. Between 1720 and 1727 he attended Christ Church College, Oxford, obtained an MA degree, became an ordained Anglican priest, and a Fellow of Lincoln College. From 1729 to 1735 he joined and then led the 'Holy Club' whose members, nicknamed 'Methodists', lived lives disciplined by regular study, sacraments and good works which included visiting and preaching to the inmates of Newgate Prison, London (which is featured on a half-penny token of 1794), and entering into the homes of the poor and sick to give them money and medicines. He also preached in several outlying Anglican churches.

Following a most unsuccessful missionary tour of Georgia in America, he returned to England in 1738 where, on 24 May at a meeting in Aldersgate Street, London, he underwent the heart-warming experience that changed his life. His reliance on himself was replaced by the realisation that salvation was the gift of God, to be received and not earned. This conversion experience transformed the whole of his life,

which he devoted to 'spreading scriptural holiness throughout the land.' To this end he preached 40,000 sermons seeking conversions and travelled almost a quarter of a million miles in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland on horseback. It was said that 'He jumped on his horse and galloped off in all directions!' Fifty-six pastoral visits were made alone to Oxford between 1730 and 1790. His enthusiasm was in marked contrast to the formality and carelessness of the Established Church of the time. Although an ordained Anglican priest the local incumbents would often deny him the use of their churches and pulpits and so, following the example of the Revd George Whitefield, he preached out in the open-air whenever he could and looked upon the whole world as his parish.

The converts were formed into 'societies' that met in peoples' homes and attended the parish church on Sundays (Methodist Chapels would be locked whilst parish services were taking place). This open air preaching was commemorated on the reverse of a medallion showing the congregation with their hats removed, and the legend 'By grace are ye saved through faith. Anno domini 1789'. The fine obverse portrait shows Wesley as an old man with a long truncation (there is a variety with a short truncation) but it compares ill with the poor reverse. The reverse legend reads: THE / RIGHTEOUS SHALL BE IN EVER / LASTING REMEM / BRANCE. 1789. It is also known with the date in Roman numerals –the Victorians often made a mess of the design of 'mere words.'

Other medallions show Wesley preaching from the market cross, probably at Epworth and a silver medallion (by John Ottley) shows him with an open Bible preaching from the more traditional pulpit. A medallion struck on the occasion of the 93rd Conference of the Wesleyan Methodists (the first held in Birmingham) records that it began 27 July

1836 with the Revd D. Bunting, President; Revd Dr Newton, Secretary, and with the Revd Dr Fisk representative from America and the Revd Messrs Stewart and Waugh from Ireland. The President is believed to have been given a copy of the medal in gold but apparently it has not survived.

Constitutionally the Conference exercised legislative, executive, and judicial functions; ecclesiastically it served as a synod and collective episcopate; sociologically it shaped, expressed, and reinforced the identity of the Wesleyan ministry through precept, example, and discipline. Jabez Bunting, twice Secretary, and four times President, called the Conference 'the living Wesley' - an appropriate description of its role and powers. For the same conference there appeared a copper piece depicting Dr Jabez Bunting as 'something out of Dickens'. Described as, 'A masterful ecclesiastic', he was President first of the ministerial training college at Hoxton (1834-57), and the reverse has the likeness of the Secretary, Robert Newton.

Conference medallions were produced for the following two conferences. The 95th begun at Bristol with 4478 preachers attending, and was under the presidency of Revd Thomas Jackson, with Robert Newton (1780-1854) remaining as Secretary (he was to be elected President of the Methodist Conferences held in 1824, 1832, 1840 and 1848).

A new portrait of Wesley by W. J. Taylor, rare in all three traditional metals of silver, copper and white metal (42mm), showed him in ecclesiastical vestments, with bare head to right, The legend around records that it was issued on the occasion of the Centenary of Wesleyan Methodism, October 25 1839. More medallions were struck for this event than for any other, including a larger (65mm) copper example by

Carter. Another large (65mm) medallion carries a left-facing portrait of Wesley and records on the reverse, ‘The Centenary Hall and Mission House, London’. That was later to become a bank and is now demolished. It appears that the die, at the end of its useful working life - judging by the die-flaw at 7.00 - was used to strike a mule the reverse of which is Wesley’s hymn-writer and poet brother Charles, resplendent in a powdered wig. Only three examples of this piece are presently known.

Charles was often the close companion and supporter of his brother John. After being educated at Westminster school and Christ Church College, Oxford, he became a tutor there, being ordained in 1735. He was the original founder of the Holy Club, and his first hymn book, published in 1738, is noted for ‘O for a thousand tongues to sing my great redeemer’s praise.’ A smaller medallion, 49 mm diameter, had a reduced legend and bust with ‘The Centenary of Wesleyan Methodism’ around the lower section. The verse chosen for the medallion out of the hundreds written was, ‘O for a trumpet voice on all the world to call, to bid their hearts rejoice, in Him who died for all, for all, my Lord was crucified, for all, for all my saviour died.’ ‘God buries his workmen but carries on their work.’

John’s wife, Mrs Molly Vazeille (1710-81, and formally a Miss Goldhawk) was a wealthy widow whom he had met when he was coming to terms with the loss of Grace Murray. She was a new convert and a widow in whom both brothers took an interest. However, she married, to their chagrin, a John Bennett of Newcastle. The union of Molly and John was disastrous, he being the servant of a higher Master and she temperamentally unable to accept this or the disciplines of his life – he rose at 4.30am. When she left him he delivered the famous words ‘I did not leave her, I did not send her away, I shall not call her back!’

A prominent member of Methodism was Thomas Coke (1747-1814). Born in Brecon in comfortable circumstances, he was educated locally and at Jesus College, Oxford. He became bailiff at Brecon, eventually gained a degree of Doctor of Civil Law and, following ordination, went as curate to South Petherton, Somerset, in 1771. His ministry began to challenge the easy-going ways of his church members and matters were brought to a head when he met John Wesley and began to organise his parish in Methodist ways. Uproar soon ensued and he was summarily dismissed from his post whilst church bells rang and hogsheads of cider were broached. He then gave his life and ministry to Methodism. In 1784 he was set aside by John Wesley to superintend the growing work in America as General Superintendent. Support came from Francis Asbury, a blacksmith by trade, who became a travelling preacher and answered Wesley's call for help to 'the brethren in America.'. He wrote in his journal, 'I am going to live to God and bring others so to do'. He was a leading figure in America being made a Bishop (which Wesley disliked) and, in partnership with Coke, directed the new and separate organisation/denomination in America.

It was George Whitefield, a member of the 'Holy Club', who pointed Wesley to open-air work. He also did well in America, where he made seven evangelistic visits. He died near Boston, Mass., and was buried in the crypt beneath the pulpit of the Old South Presbyterian Church in Newburyport, Mass. A series of medals were struck on his death. The first was by Thomas Pingo, 36mm, with a cherub holding a skull seated upon a funerary urn on the reverse. The exergue reads: B.16 D. 1714 / D. 30 S. 1770 *(BHM 1: 147).* Thomas Holloway, a skilled workman and engraver of 'History to the King', also produced a medal with a bust of Whitfield right wearing wig and ecclesiastical vestments.

Whitefield was ordained in 1736 when only 21 years old (*BHM 1:148, Betts 52).* The reverse has an inscription on a tablet dividing an allegorical scene above and arms. The scroll below reads: TO THE MEMORY OF / THE REV. GEO. WHITEFIELD. A.M. / WHO WITH UNRELUCTANT GRANDEUR / GAVE, NOT YIELDED UP, / HIS SOUL SUBLIME / AT NEWBURY P.N. AMERICA. S.30 1770 / IN THE 56 YEAR OF HIS AGE. / HIS CONDUCT IS A LEGACY FOR ALL. Another medal, probably by J. Westwood has a facing head of Westfield and the legend: AN / ISRAELITE INDEED. / A GOOD SOLDIER / OF JESUS CHRIST (*BHM 1:149, Eimer 1734*). There is a variety that replaces the word good for TRUE. His robust preaching gave him a reputation surpassing John Wesley's in England until at least the mid 1740s. Another medal (*BHM 1:150),* refers to the funeral sermon preached by Revd John Wesley from Numbers 23: 10: 'LET ME DIE THE DEATH / OF THE RIGHTEOUS / AND LET MY LAST END BE / LIKE HIS'.

Another medal, unusually for the Methodist series in gilt metal, has Faith standing holding a cross, mourning at his tomb inscribed: DIED 30 SEP 1770 AET 56. Behind the cross, a scroll is inscribed: 'BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED' with a legend around: A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST. AN ISRAELITE INDEED *(BHM 1:151).* It was on free grace and predestination that he and John Wesley disagreed. A medallion struck for the Whitby Methodist Centenary, June 23rd 1861, commemorated John Wesley's first visit on 23 June 1761. The work continued abroad too. In a general scene on a medal the natives are given a vision of the Cross as they kneel in prayer. It is typical of the Victorian view of the mission field and for home consumption only. The reverse is not easily read but identifies it as among the founders of the London Missionary Society in

1795, namely Rogue, Haweis, Waugh, and Wilks. Independent Episcopalian, Presbyterian and Calvinistic Methodist all point to the Cross. Calvinistic Methodists were strong in Wales and as the name suggests they sympathised with Calvin in their strict beliefs.

More easily recognisable as a Methodist piece is a Primitive Methodist item for the Jubilee of their Missionary Society in June 1893. With their first erected chapel, it being particularly plain, the 'Prims' were established in 1811 and were the evangelical wing of the Methodist church. It drew its membership mainly from the working classes and strongly supported the divisions of members into house group sections. The house group in turn trained leaders and many of the national and local figures in the Trade Union movement were men from the Primitive Methodist church, e.g. the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

Missionary Society work was depicted as both in the bush and on the Mission. A halfpenny token payable at WA & S Black's wholesale and retail hardware store, 1816, Halifax, who sold spades and scythes, nails and spikes by the barrel-full, was issued by the sons of Revd Black, founder of Methodism in Nova Scotia, where the family had settled. It reminds us that any church is the sum of its individual members and there is therefore a vast scope to widen any thematic collection by further research. Following the success of overseas missions, Churches and congregations became established.

The Primitive Methodist Centenary produced a badge-like medallion which had a pin fixed to the top which ran down the back for the whole length of the medal. It shows the first Primitive Methodist Chapel in Tunstall (now demolished) and the heads of Hugh Bourne and William Clowes the founders. On the reverse is a mass of statistics as one may find on the standard PM Souvenir plates of the period: 'Members of

society 210173, Travelling preachers [that is itinerant Ministers] 1153. Local Preachers 16,209. Sabbath Schools 4,209. Sabbath School Scholars 477,114. Connexional Chapels 5,126. Value of Church property £5,052,114.' The unsigned medal is known in copper, white metal, lead and brass.

The more conservative and affluent Wesleyans built on a grander scale, for example in Springhead, Wednesbury, where the memorial stone was laid on Sunday April 13th 1867, by Henry Mills Esq., and Isaac Jenks Esq. Wolverhampton. Loxton Brothers Architects, W Trow and Sons, Builders. The Bondgate Chapel, Darlington, held its centenary in 1913, and its medal has an attractive scene set as one might for a photograph.

In Newcastle upon Tyne, John Wesley erected the Orphan House in 1742. The land was purchased for £40, and was sixteen yards in breadth, and 30 in length. This was only the second chapel erected by Wesley (the first being in the Horsefair in Bristol, preserved today as a chapel and a museum currently being refurbished). It was entered by a broad staircase on the outside, commencing at the left corner of the courtyard in front, and leading to a covered way above. The third floor of the quaint old building was the home of Wesley and his helpers when sojourning in the north. In an eleven foot square room at the top of the building Wesley had a study and there wrote much of his Christian library. During his lifetime he had written over 400 books and pamphlets.

Wesley had been a pioneer in education, founding schools for preachers and children. Within that tradition there are a number of fine prize medals, e.g. from the Wesleyan Connexional School, Dublin comes a science medal awarded to Thos. R S Collins in Decr. 1857. By I.C. Parkes, Dublin (39mm). The obverse shows a seated robed female figure

about to place a wreath of laurels on the head of a student standing before her holding an open book (Bible text, John 5, v. 39; 'You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me'). There is a mount and temple to the right and a globe to the left, and a Greek legend. A copper award from Woodhouse Grove school was 'The gift of Thomas Meek Esq., of Preston for proficiency in Biblical Studies. (Solleo Gloria)'. The school was founded in 1865 by Revd John Farrar (1802-40) who was originally a pupil, later becoming its Governor and Chaplain. A biblical scholar, he also taught at Richmond and Headingly Colleges and served as Secretary of the Conference and was elected President in 1854 and 1870. There is a memorial to him in Wesley's Chapel Gallery, City Road, London.

Other Wesleyan Sunday schools that feature on medals include the Wesleyan Sunday School, Marlborough Road, Banbury, and which is happily still standing and in use. There is the medal of the Primitive Methodist Sunday School Institute, Upper Moss Lane, Manchester, which features an open Bible radiate in the centre. This spectacular building was opened 4 July 1903 by John Royle Esq., Lord Mayor of Manchester. In brilliant white metal it is a good piece of local history and may well be the only surviving pictorial record of this building.

Other interesting pieces from various schools include the King Cross Wesleyan Sunday School, an area of Halifax; the Park Gate Wesleyan Reform Sunday School; the Wesleyan Reform Union and the Independent Methodists who still exist as separate denominations. Interestingly the Wesleyan Methodist Band of Hope had as its motto 'in abstinence is safety'. Traditionally Methodism was teetotal as it grew up in an age when drunkenness and the resultant poverty were rife (now abstinence is advisory only). The scene on its medal shows a sailing

vessel steering clear of the lighthouse and the rocks, and, 'The young are our hope'.

Perhaps an explanation of the old structure of Methodism is appropriate here.

1. The local church or society had its own leaders' meeting that met quarterly to supervise pastoral care and worship. The Trustees met annually and when required and concerned themselves with property and furnishings.
2. Local chapels were grouped into a circuit. Thus Kidlington [Graham's home] is in the Oxford circuit which has 16 preaching places on the preaching plan.
3. The country was divided into 34 districts administered by Synods meeting twice yearly.
4. Conference met annually and was composed of half ministerial and half lay representatives.
5. There was great competition to host the festival conference and the competitors for it would have been drawn from over quite a wide district area.

In spite of the great facades seen on many of the medals, most of the hundreds of church buildings were built as rather temporary affairs with an expected life of 50 years. By the end of the century the need for adequate buildings was a major problem. The solution was the setting up by the Conference of 1898 of the 20th Century Fund to raise one million guineas for evangelical and philanthropic work at home and abroad, £300,000 of which went towards buildings, the most well known was the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, London. The Fund was eventually closed in 1908 with a total of £1,073,782. A medallion was made in white

metal only and was issued pierced to be worn for the benefit of the Sunday School Scholars who insisted they took part in the Fund. They were sold to the children for 1/- (5p) each. Adults could obtain them for one guinea. Church records state: ‘The medal which has been struck is regarded with great favour.’ In that way I regard them all! Several great volumes record all the donations to the Fund and are to be found in the Central Hall, Westminster.

Surprisingly, a small brass item is one of only a few commemorations of the great Union between the Wesleyans and the Prims on 20 September, 1932; it reads ‘All one in Christ Jesus’. Perhaps, however, not all shared the enthusiasm of Scott-Lidgett and Peake in the biography of them by Alan Turberfield.

The last letter John Wesley wrote on 24 February, 1791 was to William Wilberforce in which he quoted Gustavos Vassa that no black man’s testimony is admitted in the West Indies against any white person whatever. He hoped Wilberforce would continue the fight in the power of God’s name until ‘even American slavery (the vilest that ever saw the sun) shall vanish away before it.’ Both men subscribed to the inscription on the reverses of some of Thomas Spence’s 18th century political tokens showing a chained Negro slave and, ‘Am I not a man and a brother.’

Turning now to pay more attention to the date of John Wesley’s death on 2 March 1791 there are a number of standard inscriptions on the medals. A copper medal by J. G. Hancock shows the presence of God as a cloud radiate and the summary of Wesley’s life's work is given in the text: ‘WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT, ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD.’ A medal in both AE and white metal by W. Mainwaring shows an old man, becoming increasingly frail and no longer making entries in his renowned Journal.

Finally, a medal struck on his death has a funerary urn garlanded with flowers and ribbon and, 'HIS WORKS SHALL FOLLOW HIM. OB Mar 2. 1791. AET 88'. The actual tomb, different from the medal's artistic licence, is behind Wesley's Chapel in City Road, London.

Graham concluded, saying, 'Through all denominations the work of God and the preaching of the word continues; I am proud to be one of Mr Wesley's Preachers, a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church, Oxford Circuit ... and a numismatist.'

A large number of illustrations of the Methodist medals supported the talk.

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London Numismatic Club Meeting, 4 November 2014

The Club welcomed Hugh Williams, a member well known for his several previous talks to the Club. His subject on this occasion was 'The Emperor's new nose: The Story of the Lion, the Asp and the Tax Collector' This talk concerned itself with the end of a dynasty which lasted 101 from 610-711 and encompassed seven generations of the Heraclian family.

In 600AD and Britain was in the so-called Dark Ages. The Roman infrastructure had crumbled some 200 years before, and the population had fallen dramatically. There could be many reasons for this; famine is a

candidate since dendrochronology has recently established that there were several periods of extremely poor growing climates. Plague may have been another factor. The insecurity caused by successive waves of Saxon invaders led to the almost abandonment of many cities. Many defendable Roman sites, such as the Saxon Shore fort at Porchester, Hampshire, were reoccupied with flimsy wooden living structures appearing within the ruined stone walls. Close by lay the settlement of Hamwich, present day Southampton, one of the biggest population centres in England. At this time it had an estimated population of little more than 1000 people.

In the teaching of British history there has always been a tendency to ‘skip’ the sixth and seventh centuries as being difficult to interpret. Whilst this is true for Britain, it is certainly not the case for the Mediterranean area. The Roman Empire in the eastern Mediterranean continued for over 1000 years after the abandonment of Britain. It was not until 1453, one of the pivotal dates in history, usually totally ignored by our self-centred history syllabi, that Constantinople, the Christian capital of the Byzantine Empire, fell to Sultan Mehmet II, with its emperor, Constantine XI dying in heroic battle on the ramparts of the city.

It is interesting to compare Anglo-Saxon Hamwich with Constantinople in 600 AD, the time covered in today’s talk. Constantinople would have been a city of great sophistication, as capital of the Byzantine Empire it would have had every luxury. There were palaces, great churches, a hippodrome and baths, with the city being virtually impregnable, surrounded by sea and land walls. The population of the city has been estimated to have been over half a million at this time, about half that of the entire British Isles. The Empire had been reduced slightly since the time of Justinian, but virtually the entire

Mediterranean coast was under the control of the Emperor in 5Constantinople. The Byzantine Empire is often referred to in such a way that it creates the impression that it constituted some new regime which superseded the Roman Empire. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Byzantine Empire is far better viewed as 'a flawless continuation of the Roman Empire in the East.' To view it in these terms makes the understanding of its functions much more accessible. The people referred to themselves as *Romaion* or Romans, and they spoke Greek, which had always been the language of the eastern half of the Roman Empire. The western half of the Empire had crumbled under successive waves of Vandals, Ostrogoths, Visigoths and assorted Germanic tribes. The east was to survive for another thousand years.

In order to place the ensuing repercussions into context we must begin at the beginning. In 602 Flavius Phocas (Focas on the coins) ascended the Byzantine throne. The extant descriptions of this unfortunate gentleman are far from flattering. The chronicler George Cedrenus leaves us a vivid description of the man: 'Under a tangle of red hair, his thick beetling eyebrows met across his nose. The rest of his face was deformed by a huge angry scar that turned crimson when he was upset, giving it a still more hideous aspect than it normally bore.' He was, however, in the words of Lord Norwich, 'not nearly as pleasant as he looked'. Cedrenus continues, 'He was a debauched drunkard who thrived on almost pathological cruelty. He loved nothing as much as the sight of blood.' Leontia, his wife, is said to have been equally repugnant.

In 604 he concluded a shameful peace with the Avars, necessitating payment of a large tribute. Then between 606 and 608 the Sasanians under Khushru II overran Mesopotamia, Syria and large parts of Asia Minor. Time was thus ripe for revolt, which began in North Africa.

Heraclius, the aged exarch, led the revolt, aided by his son of the same name. Between 608 and 610 the revolution spread and on 3 October 610 Heraclius the Younger appeared at the head of a fleet outside the walls of Constantinople. Phocas was seized and brought before Heraclius who is said to have felled him with a single blow. He was beheaded and his body burnt. The same day, Heraclius was married to his betrothed, who was already in Constantinople, and was crowned in the chapel of St Stephen in the Great Palace. The Heraclian Dynasty had begun.

Heraclius has gone down in history, with some justification, as one of the greatest rulers of the Byzantine Empire. The start of the reign was, however, anything but auspicious. Khusru continued to wreak havoc. In 611, Antioch fell and in 614 so did Jerusalem. By 617, Alexandria and Egypt were overrun and Byzantine fortunes seemed at an all-time low. In 622, the tide began to turn, Heraclius took personal command of his army, re-organising it and introducing the concept of crusade; the clergy persuaded the troops that any soldier killed in battle with the non-Christian enemy would be guaranteed a place in a heavenly paradise. (Sadly times have changed little over the past thousand years, the only interchange being the somewhat regular fluctuation between the words crusade and 'jihad'.) Over the next six years, Heraclius recaptured most of the lost land, as the Sasanian Empire, plagued by internal dispute, fell apart at the seams. The campaign left Heraclius physically and mentally drained. Like two punch-drunk heavyweight boxers the Byzantines and Sasanians were in no fit state to fight any more, and both were incapable of stemming the tide of Islam which was rapidly sweeping out of Arabia and capturing vast swathes of the former Empires. By 638, Damascus, Antioch and Jerusalem had all fallen to the Islamic Arabs, and much of Egypt quickly followed in 641, though the

cities of Alexandria and Carthage remained under Byzantine control. In March 641, the burnt-out Emperor succumbed at the age of 66. He was briefly succeeded by his two sons, but in October of that year power passed to his grandson, Constantine. He is known to history, not as would be logically supposed as Constantine III, but as Constans II. During his 27-year reign he became increasingly unpopular with the citizens of Constantinople. He eventually forsook the capital that he hated, spitting on the city walls as he left for Syracuse, where he remained, complete with an exaggerated beard until his untimely death at the age of 39. He appointed his son, Constantine as co-ruler, portraying him on the later coinage. It was a bonus that Constantine seemed much more amenable to residing in Constantinople. The death of Constans is an interesting story. Whilst visiting the baths, he asked his attendant, a man named Andreas, to pass him the soap. For reasons unknown Andreas seems to have taken exception to this and turned on the unfortunate Emperor, clubbing him to death with a marble soapbox. The fact that a usurper named Mezizius quickly installed himself as Emperor in Sicily, leads one to think that a conspiracy rather than unpleasant body odours was in reality the motive behind Andreas' attack. In 668, Constans was succeeded by his 18-year old son, Constantine IV. Constantine immediately set off for Syracuse in order to avenge his father, executing or mutilating any thought to be implicated in the Emperor's murder or the election of Mezizius, whose reign had lasted only a few weeks. After stabilizing Sicily, Constantine returned to Constantinople, older, hardened and bearded. The beard earning him the epithet *Pognatus,* the bearded one! For the first part of his reign, he ruled jointly with his two younger brothers acting as junior emperors. This led to the expected conflicts within the Imperial Family, which ultimately led to their being deposed in

681, leaving Constantine as sole ruler for the last four years of his reign.

The major event of the reign was undoubtedly the four-year siege of Constantinople by Arab forces from 674 to 678. The danger was finally averted by the introduction of 'Greek fire', a seventh century forerunner of napalm that gave some of the attackers a very warm welcome. In 680, he presided over the Sixth Ecumenical Council that condemned monotheism. Thereby sorting out dissentions within the Church. When Constantine died of dysentery in 681 he left the Empire stronger, more peaceful and more theologically united. He had stemmed the progress of the Arabs, and the borders of the Empire had been maintained. His successor, the main character of this talk, was his 16-year old son, who was crowned Justinian II.

Justinian was, in the perhaps biased words of Edward Gibbon, 'intoxicated with foolish pride. A man given command over millions, but whom the smallest community would not have chosen as their local magistrate. Justinian was unfortunate in that he had a name to live up to. Comparisons with Justinian I (527-565) were inevitable. The beginning of the reign was promising. There was military success in Armenia and Georgia, and the new Caliph, Abdul-Malik, in 688, sought a renewal of treaty terms that were very favourable to the Byzantines. It was not long, however, before Justinian began to show a remarkable aptitude for upsetting people from all walks of life within his Empire.

Justinian, like his illustrious namesake, had a passion for endowing Constantinople with new buildings. The city benefitted from this, but all projects need the raising of funds, and taxes increased. An unsavoury gang of tax collectors intimidated the population. Leaders of this motley crew were Theodotus, a defrocked priest, and Stephen of Persia, a huge and hideous eunuch, with a penchant for using a whip. The torture of

unwilling contributors became commonplace, slow roasting over a smoky fireplace being a particularly popular post-dinner entertainment. Justinian's next project was to arrange a mass transportation tens of thousands of Slavs from the Aegean to the southern coast of the Sea of Marmara, as part of a massive repopulation programme. The poor peasants were none too happy about being plucked from poverty and squalor in their native villages, only to be resettled in even greater poverty and squalor in an alien environment threatened by Arab advance. It has been estimated that up to 250,000 Slavs were resettled in a six-year period. The men folk were conscripted into the army to act as a buffer force against the Arabs. The plan backfired spectacularly. Such treatment hardly promoted a sense of loyalty, and in 691 there are records of some 20,000 Slav soldiers defecting to the Arab cause. Justinian is said to have got over his disappointment by ordering a general massacre of the Slav families whose men folk were involved.

It is worth noting that Justinian was the first ruler to depict the portrait of Christ on a coin. As such this is one of the earliest extant representations of Christ some 650 years after his death.

In 691, Justinian invited 165 Eastern bishops to a great Synod known as the *quintisextum,* in order to thrash out the last few inconsistencies of the fifth and sixth Ecumenical Councils. The synod was mostly concerned with trivia, but it eventually produced 102 Canons ranging from the blindingly obvious to the utterly ridiculous. Clergy were now banned from attending race meetings (a move that would dramatically cut the attendance at Cheltenham if imposed today!). Hermits were ordered to cut their hair and either enter a monastery or be chased into the desert. Six years of penitence was imposed upon fortune-

tellers, sellers of lucky-charms and bear-baiters, whilst it was forbidden to dance around bonfires at full moon. (This decision must have brought howls of derision from some of the more hirsute with lupine tendencies!)

Justinian now used the decisions of the Synod as ammunition to upset the Pope, Pope Sergius (687-701), who had not been consulted on the new canons. Justinian ordered Sergius to endorse and approve the rulings. When he refused, he asked Zacherias, the Exarch of Ravenna to go to Rome in order to arrest the Pope and bring him to Constantinople. Apparently Pope Sergius was not amused, and neither was the population of the Eternal City who would have ensured that Zacharias would have had an early meeting with his Maker, had not the Pope intervened.

Justinian had, by now, cultivated popularity on a par with Phocas. The aristocracy of Constantinople, bled of their wealth by high taxation, rose in revolt, electing a professional soldier, Leontius, as Emperor in late 695. Justinian was taken prisoner and led in chains around the Hippodrome with insults of the crowd ringing in his ears. He was then ceremonially mutilated, eliminating him in theory from eligibility to rule again. His tongue was slit, though by all accounts this did little to prevent his talking in later years. He then suffered disfigurement by the *Rhinokopia*, the nose being slit, folded back and nailed to the cheekbones. (This practice was apparently continued by some orders of nuns into the late Middle Ages in order to make them less desirable to men-folk.) Thus with the age-old joke of 'I say, I say, I say the Emperor's got no nose…' filling the taverns of Constantinople, the unfortunate Justinian was sent into exile in the Crimean city of Cherson, but this is not the last that we shall hear of him.

The three-year reign of Leontius was punctuated by anarchy and minor revolts. In 698, the Arab armies took Carthage, the last Byzantine

foothold in North Africa. The greater part of the Byzantine forces seems to have escaped and made a run for home. They were, however, more than a little worried about the reception that a defeated army might be given on returning to Constantinople. They therefore decided to make use of the growing unpopularity of Leontius, broke into open revolt and elected Apsimarus, the Admiral of the Fleet as their leader. The citizens of the capital, now tired of their ineffectual leader, welcomed Apsimarus who was crowned adopting the name Tiberius III. Leontius also suffered the *rhinokopia*, before being banished to a monastery in Dalmatus.

Tiberius was a much more effective emperor than his predecessor. He took the fight to the Arabs, where the Byzantine army under the command of his brother-in-law scored some notable victories. Antioch, Cilicia and Cyprus were all recovered, and the future looked promising. Unfortunately for Tiberius, however, the romance surrounding the Heraclian dynasty had never completely evaporated. The people had forgotten the evil deeds of Justinian more quickly than the epic legends of that great family. Unrest bubbled just below the surface. Even more important was the fact that the last of the Heraclians was alive and well and living in exiled retirement on the shores of the Black Sea. During the intervening years, Justinian had grown tired of the Crimea and he had fled from Cherson, and taken refuge with the Khazars, a somewhat wild and unruly neighbouring tribe. He ultimately fell in love with the daughter of the Khan of the tribe, who does not seem to have been put off by his somewhat unorthodox appearance. The two married, she taking on Christian baptism, and the name Theodora, that of the wife of the first and great Justinian. Tiberius had suspected that Justinian may make a move to restore his power, and he persuaded the Khazar Khan to turn him over. Theodora, however, was loyal to her new husband, and she warned

Justinian and they fled to the court of Tervel, Khan of the Bulgars. Tervel not only gave the ex-Emperor shelter, but also agreed to give him military back-up in a return to Constantinople. As a reward, Tervel was to receive the hand of Justinian's daughter by a previous marriage, and to be given the title of Caesar on Justinian's reinstatement.

For three days the Bulgar army camped outside the seemingly impregnable walls of Constantinople. Then scouts discovered an old waste-water conduit that came from inside the walls. Thus, accompanied by a small group of hand-picked soldiers, Justinian re-entered the city, not in triumph through the Golden Gate, but under the cover of darkness through a disused sewer. The citizens had little choice but to welcome Justinian back. The alternative would have involved unleashing the Bulgar hoards to sack and pillage the city.

Thus, in 705, Justinian was re-acclaimed Emperor of the throne he last held some ten years earlier. The *rhinokopia* seems no longer to have been a hindrance to re-accession and, according to the chronicler Agnellus of Ravenna, Justinian had by now replaced his original *proboscis* with one made of gold. A new version of the old joke was now whispered, but very quietly in the Taverns. Justinian may have lost his nose, but he never lost his ability to harbour a grudge. Tiberius was quickly captured, and Leontius was brought from his monastic seclusion to join him. On 5 February 706, the two unfortunate ex-Emperors were paraded in chains at the Hippodrome. They were made to lie down in front of Justinian whilst he sat on his dais, whilst he placed an Imperial boot on the head of each. The crowd was then orchestrated into chanting verse 13 of Psalm 91 with its reference to the Lion (Leontius) and the Asp (Tiberius Apsimar): *'Thou hast trodden on the ASP and the lizard, The LION and the dragon thou hast trampled underfoot'*.

Their disgrace completed, the two unfortunates were then beheaded and their remains thrown into the Bosporus.

In the interest of Byzantine-Bulgar entente-cordiale, self-preservation and in order to prevent an outbreak of Bulgar hooliganism, Justinian was now obliged to undertake the ceremony required to install Tervel as Caesar. There was horror amongst the traditionalists as a barbarian brigand was elevated to the title. The reign of terror and revenge now began in earnest. Supporters of the two usurpers were rounded up and dealt with. Gifted generals, who were a scarce enough commodity, were hung, or thrown into the sea in weighted sacks. The Archbishop who had crowned Leontius and Tiberius was blinded, and sent to Rome as a warning to the new Pope, John VII (705-707), that failure to recognise the 102 canons could seriously damage his health.

Some relief came with the safe arrival in Constantinople of Justinian's wife and young son. The coronation took place in Hagia Sophia of Theodora as Empress and young Tiberius, who would be recognised henceforth as co-Emperor. Coins were issued showing Justinian and his son. The bust of Christ reappears on the coinage but, interestingly, he is now shown with a short-trimmed beard and curly hair. The Empire now had a barbarian empress and a half-barbarian co-emperor.

Justinian's foreign policy was one of appeasement; after all there was more than enough bloodshed for him to enjoy within his own Empire. Tervel appears to have been placated with his new, but meaningless title, which seems to have ensured peace with the neighbouring Bulgars. The Arabs were still a threat to the south, but Justinian entered into a deal with the Caliph, Walid I, by releasing Arab prisoners and by making a gift of gold and mosaic *tesserae*, which were

used to embellish the Great Mosque at Medina under the supervision of Byzantine mosaic artists. Within his Empire, however, retribution was Justinian's overriding interest. Punitive expeditions were arranged for Ravenna and Cherson, places that did not harbour happy memories for Justinian. Ravenna was looted in 709 and all the main civic dignitaries were brought to Constantinople where, with one exception, they were executed. That exception was the new Exarch, Felix, who was blinded, by being made to stare into a red-hot silver dish, whilst vinegar was poured into it, the fumes apparently utterly destroying his sight.

In 711, Pope Constantine (708-715) somewhat surprisingly accepted Justinian's invitation to visit Constantinople. In doing so he became the last Pope for over twelve centuries to visit the Byzantine capital. Discussions between the two were cordial, and for once relations between the Empire and the Church in Rome were on excellent terms. Encompassing theological ideas on reconciliation, and turning the other cheek did not come easy to Justinian, and revenge and retaliation were still the orders of the day. Justinian planned a second assault on Ravenna, feeling that total destruction was deserved. Thankfully this never came to fruition, and some of the most important Byzantine monuments and mosaics there remain intact to this day.

It was the impending attack on Cherson that eventually proved the Emperor's undoing. The citizens had received word of Justinian's intentions, and formally announced that they no longer recognised him as Emperor. They gave their allegiance to Bardanes, an Armenian general, who changed his name to Philippicus and declared himself Emperor, much to Justinian's fury. Justinian responded by sending an army to Cherson, where their mission failed. The defeated troops begged for mercy, and Philippicus set sail for Constantinople. Justinian was not at

home when Philippicus arrived, having set out to quell a minor rebellion in Armenia. The people of Constantinople, freed from oppression and a reign of terror, welcomed Philippicus with open arms. The returning Justinian was met by a detachment of troops at the twelfth milestone. Their officer, Elias, struck off the Emperor's head with a single blow and it was immediately taken into the city for display. Subsequently it was also displayed in Ravenna and Rome as a gory confirmation of events.

Perhaps the saddest repercussion was the end afforded to Justinian's six-year-old son Tiberius, whose only crime was to be the last surviving member of the Heraclian dynasty. His grandmother, Anastasia, had taken him for sanctuary into the Church of the Virgin at Blachernae. There two agents of Philippicus found the terrified pair. Anastasius pleaded for the boy's life, but to no avail. He was dragged from the main altar, had the relics that he was holding torn from his grasp, and was taken into the porch of a neighbouring church. There, according to the chroniclers, he was slaughtered like a sheep. Thus, in early November 711, the Heraclian dynasty ended after ruling the Empire for 101 years.

The question needs to be asked, 'was the second Justinian all bad?' It has to be admitted that during his first reign he upset everyone from the Pope to the most menial peasant. During his second reign he must have terrified most of those that escaped torture of execution. On the positive side, he possessed courage and determination. His Farmer's Law did much to give credence and freedom to those living in rural areas, and he undertook an ambitious, if costly, building programme in Constantinople. During his second reign, he improved relations with the neighbours, i.e. the Arabs and Bulgars and, above all, he left the Empire on excellent terms with the Church in Rome.

On hearing of the fate of his friend Justinian, Pope Constantine

refused to recognise Philippicus as Emperor. Furthermore, the Pope made it an offence to mention the name of Philippicus in prayers, to refer to his reign in the dating of documents, or even to stamp his effigy on coins. The handful of coins known and ascribed to Rome shows that some may have escaped from the mint before the decree.

Philippicus may have been a good general, but his aptitude for ruling an Empire seems to have been minimal, and the chroniclers portray him as a hopeless hedonist. On Whit Sunday 713, after a little over eight months in power, and having neglected all important duties, the Emperor was seized by a group of disgruntled soldiers who blinded him in the changing room of the Green Charioteers in the Hippodrome. His secretary Artemius was appointed as Emperor in his place, being crowned as Anastasius II. Anastasius seems to have been much more capable in matters of state. Unfortunately, after two years in power, he made the mistake of sending a fleet to attack the Arabs on the Syrian coast. The troops mutinied at Rhodes and returned towards Constantinople in order to overthrow their Emperor. Though the troops had decided to curtail the reign of Anastasius, they seem to have ignored consideration of a suitable replacement. Thus began a strange tale of unsought promotion.

On their way to the capital the mutinous troops passed through the town of Adramytium. There they happened upon a tax-collector named Theodosius. Why the mutineers wished to choose an Emperor from outside the army is a mystery. Maybe it was the poor man's misfortune to bear a suitably imperial name (Maurice's son and Heraclius' brother both shared the name). Whatever the reason, Theodosius was practically kidnapped by the soldiers, and maybe unwillingly, and with great trepidation taken to Constantinople. There he was crowned as Theodosius III. Anastasius, meanwhile, escaped permanent damage, being sent to

spend his remaining years in the quiet but safe seclusion of a monastery.

Poor Theodosius was far better suited to collecting local taxes than running an Empire. His two main generals, Leo and Artavasdus failed to recognise his authority, though neither was immediately free to conduct an overthrow. Theodosius seems to have accomplished little during his two-year stint in office. In fact, by accomplishing so little, he is one of the few Byzantine Emperors of whom history has left no bad impression; in reality his reign has left little impression of any kind. Theodosius knew his limitations, and readily, and probably with some relief, he abdicated, allowing Leo to enter the city in triumph on 25 March 717.

Leo III founded the Isaurian dynasty that was to last for 80 years, and encompassed the vandalism associated with iconoclasm which robbed the world of so many priceless works of art. As for Theodosius, he retired to a monastery in Ephesus where he peacefully spent the rest of his days. His tomb became a shrine, which was reputed to have healing powers. The erstwhile tax collector and unwilling Emperor was eventually canonised by the Eastern Church as Saint Theodosius the Reluctant !

Hugh showed numerous illustrations of coins with portraits of the Emperors in support of his talk as well as appropriate site views and maps.

London Numismatic Club Meeting, 2 December 2014

This meeting was to have heard Tony Holmes on ‘Delving into junk boxes’. Unfortunately Tony’s wife had a bad fall and was consigned to hospital and only days before the scheduled date of the meeting Tony himself suffered an eye problem that required hospital treatment, and so it was not possible for him to present his talk.

In place of Tony's talk, and at very short notice, members of the Committee put together an evening of 'Members' Contributions'.

David Berry drew members' attention to the fact that it was cheaper to obtain the monthly publication *Coin Monthly* for £38 annually or digitally for only £12 a year and *Medal News* was also available in electronic form, and that monthly subscriptions for these e-formats was much cheaper than for the paper version. Spink's *Standard Catalogue* was now in two volumes costing £30, but the 2014 edition could still be had from Spink for £7.95. *The Coin Year Book* is £9.95, or digitally only £5. Not least, it can be retained on a smart phone or tablet and viewed on one's travels. E-formats were also available for an increasing number of auction house catalogues.

Tony Gilbert brought along four numismatic dictionaries, including the latest published, Harrington E. Manville's *Dictionary of English Numismatic Terms*, to which several of the Club's members had contributed. Tony explained the differences in approach to these works by Frey, Doty, Junge and Manville, and also the contrasting presentational and prose styles. The spread of content also differed and it was evident in Manville's book that heavy and extensive research into on-line databases had been used. Harrington Manville is an Honorary Member of the LNC and well known to many members from his frequent attendance at BANS Congresses.

Harold Mernick showed some illustrations of recent additions to his collection of coin conversion jewellery including brooches and cutouts. He noted that in the late 1890s and up to 1902 examples existed of farthings welded together and then gilded to form brooches and, presumably, were done to make them resemble half-sovereigns.

Philip Mernick showed a slide of a query piece – a St Bathild ring ? She was an Anglo Saxon slave girl who caught the eye of King Clovis and they were married in 649, producing three sons who became kings in their turn. But, is the piece a fake – it is gold, its derivation is uncertain, and it could just be a copy or a fantasy – it raised more questions than it answered and more research and expert opinion was required.

Anthony Portner spoke on 'Dating an Heraclian follis'. Earlier this yvar he had acquired a specimen of a follis of Heraclius and his son Heraclius Constantine in a state of preservation better than usual for this very common type.

On the obverse Heraclius is standing to the left holding a long cross in his right hand with his left hand on his hip; to the right Heraclius Constantine is standing holding a globus cruciger in his right hand. There is a cross between their heads. There should be an Heraclius monogram to the left and a K to the right for Heraclius Constantine but as is usually the case this is missing/illegible.

The reverse has M the mark of value being 40 nummi to l ANNO (year) and to right the date underneath a letter indicating that this coin was produced by the fourth officina (workshop). In the exergue is Con (Constantinople), the name of the mint that struck the coin. Above there is a plain cross. Of the date only XX is legible, although there is some further illegible numbering.

This set me thinking whether it might be possible to date this coin more precisely. My research showed that this particular type was first struck in year 20 of Heraclius' reign (629-630) to a considerably higher weight standard than his previous issue - the coins weighing approximately 11g whilst the previous issue weighed between 5-6g.

However, the reform of the weight standard was short lived, lasting only two years and a fresh decline began. Folles of year 22 (AD 631-2) average 6-8g and in subsequent years they vary between 4.5 to 6g.

My particular specimen weighs only 7.87g so it is likely to have been struck in year 22 (AD 631-2) of Heraclius' reign and that the missing numbers on the coin are 11. What makes the date certain is the plain cross on the reverse of the coin as this symbol is not present on coins dated subsequent to year 22.

This shows that even a humble Byzantine copper can require considerable interesting research.

David Powell showed a sequence of loosely but not necessarily wholly connected tokens, over the course of a dozen slides, in a manner which he hoped might become a model for future Show-and-Tell sessions. They commenced with some examples of unusual monetary values, including a 2¾d from Suffolk and a 19-cent from Ceylon; the latter being a value commonly paid in the 1870s for picking half a bag of clean coffee. Members were invited to notify any more bizarre examples known to them.

The next example showed that not all unusual values are monetary. A piece for the value of 'one bunch' was traced to florist A.F.Partridge of Paddington, whose commencement of trading was traced to 1909; this thanks to a newspaper article of 1999, which listed the business amongst a number suffering as a result of the reorganisation of rail services following the Southall railway disaster. The piece, probably from the company's earliest days, was a receipt; husbands would have come off the train in the morning, and ordered a bunch of flowers on the way in to work; they would have been given a token for these, and the bunch would have been made up during the day whilst the client was at work.

Then, on his way home, he would have handed in his token, received the flowers in exchange, and taken them home to his wife.

The next three pieces, all accompanied by site photographs and some background history, were all connected with social experiments:

- The Alexandra Trust Dining Rooms, in City Road, for which a range of values between ½d and 4½d were issued in 1900.
- The Dalrymple Retreat, a home for inebriates at Rickmansworth, set up in 1883 as a provision under the Habitual Drunkards Act of 1879.
- The Fountains Abbey Settlers experiments of the 1930s, whereby the families of 77 unemployed Tyneside craftsmen were resettled in countryside surroundings at Swarland, just south of Alnwick.

The Alexandra Trust values were conjectured to be permutations and combinations of the respective prices for soup (½d), main course (3d) and dessert (1d), but this is unproven. The precise use and value of the penny-sized Rickmansworth pieces is unknown, but the Fountains Abbey one was for a unit of work, not money: the very unusual reverse inscription being, Exchange for the Fruits of your Voluntary Labour. Not Negotiable for Cash'. In other words, it was part of a communal self-help scheme where people did jobs for their neighbours and received payment in tokens which could be similarly redeemed.

David has been coming increasingly interested in researching the background history of tokens issuers using genealogical tools and other contemporary source documents. The next three examples showed, with supporting evidence:

A Victorian bronze penny engraved for use as an identity piece by a young lady c.1910, and probably carried in her purse in case the latter should be lost.

- Another bronze piece engraved as a soldier's WW1 kitbag tag for similar use on the battlefield, with a letter from the archivist of the regiment concerned giving a biography of the user's early life.
- A rod ticket, issued by a farmer c.1880-1920, as a licence to fish on water passing through his land.

The next two examples were in similar vein, but with photographs c.1900 of all the people named on the pieces. The first, on the back of a William III crown, was a birthing piece for a lady born in 1853; the photo, thanks to her having married a locally well-known historian, showed her with her dog in her back garden in 1902. This was followed by two pieces dated 1897 and 1900 from Lanark's annual Lanimer Day celebrations, in which amongst other things the selected Lanimer queen (aged about 11) is paraded around and then crowned in the High Street. Coin-like tokens have been struck for her each year since 1896, and she distributes them as part of the ceremony.

Finally, David showed a selection of lead gallows tokens, believed to have been used as tickets for admission to public hangings. More details on these, and their use can be read David's lead token newsletter (available at www.leadtokens.org.uk): see the back page of edition no.60.

CLUB AUCTION RESULTS by Anthony Gilbert

119th Club Auction, 13 May 2014

The Auction was held in the lecture room of the Warburg Institute at 6.00pm. Feedback received from the membership had suggested that we maintain the pre-viewing period of about 20 minutes, and that a quarter of an hour was needed at the end of the auction to facilitate queries, buying in of unsold lots, and the collecting in and paying out of monies, etc. All this meant that the 113 lots assembled by the Club's auctioneer, David

Powell, had to be knocked down within our one-and-a-half hour time slot, since we were only booked until 7.30pm. Similar to the last few years, a mid-auction interval had to be omitted.

There were 19 people present, including one new member and two guests. It was announced that only Club members could bid for lots, in accordance with Club Rule 12a. The Club must thank the five vendors who had submitted lots for the auction. Three of the vendors regularly submit most of the lots, and regularly present a varied selection. Marcus Phillips acted as table manager, transferring sold lots to the cashier's desk for processing and payment.

This auction presented members with a truly fine selection of lots; there must have been something for everyone in the room to bid on. Reserve prices set by the vendors were overall fair and competitive. The top price on the night was £30 for lot 26, a Greek drachm of Massalia, Artemis/lion, against a reserve of £25. Lot 3, a 17th century farthing token, at the Golden Locke, Temple Bar (Williamson 3057), sold at its reserve of £20. Lot 4, another 17th century farthing token, 'at the 3 dethes hedes', Wapping. with three human skulls (probably an apothecary, Williamson 3347), sold for £18 against its reserve of £15. A Greek bronze of Syracuse in Sicily, 357-344 BC, lot 28, made £18 against an £11 reserve.

Although a rather high number of the lots on offer (52) remained unsold, and this was obviously disappointing from the vendors' viewpoint, there were some good buys made. Lot 71, a scarce France 5F 1945 C (Castelsarrasin) went for £6.50 against a reserve of £3 to a collector of French pieces. A Sheffield Sunday School Union medal, 1862, was knocked down for £9 against its £6 reserve. The vendor of lots

93-95, BNJ volumes 42, 51 and 52 respectively, let them go for 50p each to a dealer member after they had failed to attract any bids, and since the vendor did not wish to have to take them back home – a bargain price indeed equivalent to that of a 'red top' daily newspaper. A collector of modern 20th century coins secured a mixed lot of 40 pre-EU European coins for £1 against no reserve.

Banknotes seem to do well at our auctions, and here six out of seven plates of notes found a buyer – all were knocked down at or just above reserves of £2-£3.

The total sales reached £358.50, with the Club receiving £35.85 (10% commission). The compiler of the auction, David Powell, had done well to organise the reception and storage of the lots, and also the production and printing of the catalogue, as well as efficiently executing his role of Club Auctioneer.

As previously mentioned, although 46% of the lots remained unsold, the Club was taking membership room bids only, and bearing in mind that there was a very good selection of lots submitted, this can still be said to have been a good Club evening, especially since the turn-out of members was higher than average.

THE FIRST HISTORICAL MEDALLIONS CONGRESS, WARWICK, 14 JUNE 2014

Anthony Gilbert

This inaugural Congress was held at the Warwick Hilton Hotel. At the 32nd British Token Congress that had been held at the same venue in October 2013, Andrew Wager had proposed that a similar Congress on historical medallions could be organised to cover that area of study and

collecting which was also of interest to many of the token collectors present at Warwick. Beyond the number of collectors interested in coins, tokens and also in historical medallions there were also, of course, those collectors whose collecting interest lay in that area alone.

It was proposed to run such a Congress at a time that was complementary to the Token Congress, i.e. in the Spring or early Summer, but not in competition with that Congress. It was also stated that the timing would have to be such to also avoid clashing with other regular numismatic events, e.g. the Spring Congresses of both the British Association of Numismatic Societies, and the British Art Medal Society. A straw poll by a show of hands proved to show enough support to the idea for the proposed organisers, Andrew Wager and John Cumbers, to proceed with the venture which duly took place on Saturday, 14 June.

The opening speaker was Phillip Attwood, Keeper of Coins and Medals in the British Museum, President of the British Art Medal Society, and also President of FIDEM (Fédération Internationale de la Médaille d'Art). Philip spoke on 'Leonard Wyon: The man behind the medals'. This talk was essentially based on his recent publication, *Hard at Work. The Diary of Leonard Wyon 1853-1867* (BNS Special Publication No. 9, hardback, £45).

Leonard Wyon (1826-91) never quite reached the heights of his father, William, as Chief Engraver. Although he came from a talented family he lacked personality. He was, nevertheless, entirely competent in executing his craft. The diary's chronological listing of all personalities and events pertaining to his life and work clearly demonstrated his uxoriousness. His official commissions included the famous 'bun' penny, coins of the Dominions, and campaign medals with most of the dies for

British military and naval medals, 1851-91, as well as work for notable individuals, commercial enterprises, prizes and commemorative medals for national societies and institutions.

John Whitmore, a respected postal dealer mainly in tokens and medals, next presented his talk on 'What is a medallion ?' This talk spread across a number of headings of exonumia, including Victorian jettons, gaming counters, makers and commemorative issues. References were made to Laurence Brown's three-volume standard work, *British Historical Medals*, which gave strict guidelines (though with some slippage), and also to Ewing and Whittlestone's volumes covering commemorative pieces 1837-1977, and which were designed to be worn. John mentioned the fact that Tribute and Peace medals of the Great War, 1914-18, were under researched, and also that an updating of Brown's volumes was now needed. This writer's view is that the debate around 'what is a medal/medallion/medalet' is a continuing debate to which there will be with no definitive answer.

Mike Roberts's contribution, 'Local Commemorative Medals: The Royal Connection', was a mixed bag talk. His main theme centred around the issues for Huddersfield (the speaker's home town), Bradford, Leeds and the West Riding of Yorkshire generally. He referred to the International Stamp Exhibition medals owned by the Royal Philatelic Society, and that Society's desire to have its collection catalogued with a view to subsequent publication.

John Cumbers (the co-organiser of the Congress) delivered the last of the morning's talks before lunch: 'The Medallions of the British and Foreign Sailors Society (BFSS)'. The BFSS originated as the Port of London Society in 1833 and John had identified some branch addresses, including the old Passmore Edwards building in Limehouse and also 32

Cheapside (both in London), and Brick Lane, Manchester – he requested 75 that information on any more branches would be welcome. The medals are inscribed BFSS, but from 1925 there was a name change to The British Sailors Society. There is a single medal inscribed 'Seamen's Vigilance Association' for which John requested any more information. This talk was given in the vein of many talks given set by the well established Token Congress; the speaker delivers his workings and findings in an form informative and entertaining form, and requests the audience supplies further information (if they can) in order to develop the subject further, and sometimes with a view to publication.

After lunch the other co-organiser of the Congress, Andrew Wager, spoke about 'A Nineteenth Century Medallic Time Capsule'. The time capsule was a glass case complete with a brass plaque discovered in a foundation when a building was demolished in 1936. The brass plaque was inscribed 'KES' (for King Edward School) and the school was the Edward VI School, Birmingham (its original Charter was in 1552). This particular building was opened in 1838 and the casket was buried c. 1835 containing 20 medals, all dated approximately to the 1830s and struck during the reigns of George IV and William IV. The discovery raised some questions: why were these medals chosen; what were the links with the building, why the dates, and how have they survived? Andrew revealed his answers: all the medals were linked to Edward Thomason's manufactory and also to a visit by the Duke of Wellington. Edward Thomason was Bailiff (Chairman) of the School Governors, and the subjects of the medals reflected the achievements of the Governors and their relatives. The School Minute Books provided the basis of this talk, which Andrew presented in his usual suspense-driven, mystery and knowledgeable style.

Peter Waddell next delivered ‘The Nipton Horseshoeing Medal and Agricultural Societies’. The horseshoeing medal referred to in the title was one that was awarded to F. H. Matthews, and was inscribed ’NMF&BA’ – National Master Farriers & Blacksmiths Association.

Peter’s area of interest and research is concentrated in and around the Northamptonshire area, and he showed examples of medals produced for the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society. Theses award medals proliferated in the period 1910-40, and they cover agricultural education as well as horses, pigs, cattle and agricultural implements and machinery. This area of historical medallions – agricultural as well as horticultural societies - is much under–researched and needs further development. Hopefully, through future specialists weekend meetings such as this one at Warwick, a co-ordinated system of local researchers will arise and advance this neglected field of our social and numismatic history.

Peter Glews was the next speaker on ‘Thomason and the Elgin Marbles’ giving a carefully measured demonstration of just what a private collector can achieve in a study of a subject which has been largely glossed over by professional numismatists as being ‘not too interesting’. Also, compilers of respected medallion catalogues – Laurence Brown, Daniel Fearon and Christopher Eimer had, perhaps because of lack of available information or space, not fully listed all 48 of these pieces.

Edward Thomason was apprenticed as a diesinker to Matthew Boulton, and he produced a series of 48 medals, 24 with a single reverse illustration, the other 24 with a reverse illustration plus a legend. They exist in copper and white metal with a diameter of 1¾ inches (4.5cms). Peter owns 37 of the 48 medals, and his study of these pieces has concentrated on identifying and relating the sculpture represented to the

descriptions. His researches have included the collections of the American Numismatic Society and the British Museum as well as his local Dudley Museum, which has a full set of the 48 medals. These medals are basically trial pieces by Thomason's assistants or worker students interpreting the sculptures of the Elgin Marbles (the Parthenon Sculptures/Frieze) in the British Museum_ from different angles. This explains the 'varieties' of some of the medals – essentially they are artistic cartoons.

The series is a difficult one to research and Peter Glews had taken it up, done further research and invested time in getting to the bottom of the designs.

Graham Kirby next presented 'The Medallions of Methodism'. He is a well-known numismatist in the Thames Valley and West Midlands areas, a former banker and a local preacher on the Oxford circuit, who has collected and studied these medallions since 1971. [See above for the talk of a similar title that Graham gave to the Club in October.]

John Wesley (1703-91) instituted what we now know as Methodism – his catch phrase was 'I look upon all the world as my parish'. Graham explained that the Church split in 1770 into various factions and from 1797 did not become unified as The Methodist Church until 1932. The earliest medals date from the split in 1770 and these and subsequent issues celebrate ministers, meeting places and conferences. 'SS' on some medals represents either Sunday School or Sabbath School. This is a complex subject but Graham had deeply researched his interest and it was well explained and illustrated with many slides.

Frances Simmons, a member of the LNC, gave the final talk of the programme and her title was: 'Commemorating War and Peace. European

Medals 1919-1939'. She said that her talk was part of her continuing research into European medals from the artistic aspect, concentrating on French, Belgian, British and German pieces issued during this period. Typical subjects were the Battle of Jutlant.

There is much symbolism represented on the medals of this period. The designs on the German pieces are more satirical, and the general theme running through them is that of 'zusammen' (together), whereas the French pieces exhibit more glorification and propaganda, in essence more 'victoire' (victory). Local French and Belgian small medals were also mentioned. These pieces tend to portray themes of bravery, deprivation and suffering. However, Karl Goetz's treatment of national themes on his German medals became highly contentious. Styles varied from the neo-classical, continuing from the previous two centuries, to the undeveloped art-decorative, whereby a flatter, more zone blocked, non-flowery and simplistic treatment is exhibited in order to make a statement. Also shown were examples of a vulgarised or pretentious (kitsch) art that was produced mainly by German artists. Although the period covered by the talk is historically recent, many collectors, as Frances pointed out, 'just do not see or come across these medals and that is because the quality outmatched the quantity ?'.

After the evening meal the Congress programme followed the Token Congress format of a bourse for attendees. Six dealers/collectors had taken up the facility as table holders. For a first Congress this was reasonably successful.

It was a brave effort by the organisers to, first, propose, and then, secondly, to organise and host this first Congress concentrating on historical medallions. The organisers had worked hard to put the programme together, and must be sincerely applauded for that. Although

the numbers attending were modest at just under thirty, the writer felt that it was a success from the programme point of view. The organisation went well and the hotel venue was just right. In the welcoming statement in the Congress programme it was noted, referring to the first Token Congress held in 1982 as a single day event, that '… if successful, the Historical Medallion Congress could also become more than just a one-off event.' Time alone will tell if this event will prove to be as successful as the Token Congress has been.

The organisers have asked for comments and suggestions regarding the way forward. However, this writer feels that a niche interest has been identified here which the British Art Medal Society (BAMS) has not quite addressed because it concentrates mainly on encouraging and supporting new medallists, though it does host talks and publishes articles on historical medallion in its publication *The Medal*. This one-day Congress was organised more for collectors, students and researchers of products of the past, as the presented talks showed.

A historical medallion 'toe' has now been tentatively dipped into the water to test the temperature. It will be up to the future organisers, on the assumption that more of these Congresses will follow, as Andrew Wager suggested, and care must be taken to carefully advance this product especially as the Congress and Symposium market in numismatics (in its broadest sense) is beginning to become a bit crowded. However, we wish it well.

[**Editor's note**. Anthony Gilbert has not only presented a splendid account of the first Historical Medallion Congress but has also made some very valid points. The Editor attends, when possible, the BANS Annual Congress and the Token Congress, and was also present at this Congress because he, like so many LNC members, has a wide area of

numismatic interests. The big problems are going to be, first, choice of dates to obviate clashes, as Tony points out and, not least, the financial implications of attending the Congresses that are of interest when one has interests in a variety of numismatic fields. This first Historical Medallions Congress was not very widely made known, and anyone who missed it should take care to keep an eye on the numismatic periodicals or get onto the Congress mailing list via Andrew Wager or John Cumbers at: medallioncongress14@gmail.com