

British Numismatic Society

2012 Meeting Programme

- 24 January Graham Dyer, *William John Hocking (1864-1953): Curator and Numismatist*
- William John Hocking in 1913 was the first person to be appointed to the newly-created post of Curator of the Royal Mint Museum, a deserved reward for his publication of the collection in two catalogues in 1906 and 1910. A well-respected numismatist, he enjoyed friendly relationships with leading figures of his day such as Helen Farquhar and Henry Symonds and served on the Council of the Royal Numismatic Society. The paper will assess his numismatic significance, but will also describe his long career in the Operative Department of the Royal Mint from 1883 to 1926 and say something of his activities as a member of the Plymouth Brethren.
- 28 February Sam Moorhead, *Renewed vigour for the British Empire – Carausius and the Frome Hoard*
- The story of the Frome Hoard has been told across Britain and the globe. The hoard contains the largest single group of Carausian coins ever found and these pieces are now coming out of the conservation process. This lecture will summarise the work to date on these Carausian coins, showing the general chronological spread, but also highlighting new features of the coinage which are coming to light. Of interest to the collector will be the large number of new varieties which are being recorded. Given that there are over 8,000 unidentified coins being conserved next, it is quite possible that more surprises await us.
- 27 March Richard Cassidy, *The Exchequer, the exchanges and the mints in the reign of Henry III*
- The records of the Exchequer can shed some new light on the activities of the exchanges in the thirteenth century. England produced very little silver, but minted large quantities of silver pennies. The rolls of silver purchases may show where this silver came from. The exchanges were also a significant source of revenue, and the baronial reformers who seized power in 1258 took effective measures to increase the government's share of the profits from exchanging and minting.
- 24 April Martin Allen, *Mints and Money in Norman England*
- A review of current research into the English coinage between the Norman Conquest and Henry II's reforms of 1158, placing it in the context of England's government and economy. Domesday Book is still our main source of evidence for mint revenue and the regulation of the coins received in payment by the king, but in recent decades finds have transformed our knowledge of workshop technology and mint organization.
- 22 May Felicity Powell, *Charmed Life: The solace of objects*
- Artist Felicity Powell will discuss her recent exhibition work at the British Museum and the Welcome Collection. Through her own art she has engaged with coins and medals, including Dr Johnson's touch piece in the collection of the British Museum, as well as a collection of 1400 amulets assembled by the Edwardian amateur folklorist Edward Lovett.

- 26 June Stephen Brogan, *Scrofula, Sin and Miracles: Debating the Royal Touch during the Stuart Restoration, 1660-85*
- In 1684 John Browne, serjeant surgeon to Charles II, published *Adenochoiradelogia*, the most detailed early modern English book describing the royal touch – the religious healing ceremonies at which the king touched between 4,000 and 6,000 scrofulous people each year. Such huge numbers were unprecedented: by way of comparison, in 1530 Henry VIII had touched 30 people. The rationale of the royal touch maintained that English monarchs healed the scrofulous in imitation of Christ, and so it was widely thought that the royal body acted as conduit for God’s healing powers. Everyone who was touched by the king received a commemorative gold medal that bore a legend and two depictions that supported the ideology of royal thaumaturgy. This paper utilizes these medals as primary sources.
- 07 July** Summer Meeting. Worcester College, Oxford.
- Anniversaries and Jubilees.*
- 25 September Barrie Cook, *‘This is the very coinage of your brain’: Shakespeare and coins revisited*
- Over the decades several numismatists have catalogued and investigated the coin references in the works of William Shakespeare and in some cases of his contemporaries. More recently literary and theatrical historians have increasingly analysed the role of money in the plays. This paper will review the place of coins in Shakespeare’s work, look at how and why he used particular coin names and how the phenomenon of coin use in the broader sense, powerful metaphors of money, is reflected there.
- 23 October Adam Daubney, *Maurice Johnson (1688-1755), numismatist and founder of the Spalding Gentlemen’s Society, Lincolnshire*
- The Spalding Gentlemen’s Society, founded by Maurice Johnson in 1710, claims to be England’s oldest provincial antiquarian society. Among the Society’s collection are minute books, dissertations and correspondence dating between 1710 and 1755, much of which concerns numismatics and Johnson’s personal collection of coins. This talk examines key documents within the archive to take a glimpse at Johnson’s cabinet of coins and the thriving network of numismatists with whom he corresponded in the early eighteenth century.
- 27 November** Anniversary Meeting and Presidential Address. Followed by the Anniversary Reception
- Roger Bland, *Hoards and hoarding in Britain. (1) A short history of the study of hoards.*
- Hoards provide the source of most new coins that have come to light over the last few centuries and their study is fundamental to numismatic research. In Britain a strong antiquarian tradition that developed in the sixteenth century has produced a rich heritage of hoard studies. This paper will look at the role of Treasure Trove and the history of the recording and study of coin hoards from Britain over the last 400 years and will examine how the publication of hoards has helped to advance our knowledge of the coinage of Britain.