to the services of Mr. Carlyon-Britton, said that the success of the movement set on foot by him and his colleagues in 1903—a movement which has resulted in a Society of 500 members, and the publication of four volumes comprising over 2,000 pages—was remarkable and unparalleled, and was largely due to the skill, tact, and judgment of the retiring President.

PRESENTATION TO MR. CARLYON-BRITTON.

When the close of Mr. Carlyon-Britton’s fifth year of office as President approached, and it was remembered that the Rules prohibited the Council from nominating the same President for six consecutive years, there arose a very marked and general feeling amongst the members that some recognition of his services to the Society, as its first President and chief founder, should be made. Various suggestions were received as to the form this recognition should take, but the scheme under Col. Morrieson’s guidance at once assumed proportions which enabled him, with the approval of the recipient, to commission Mr. Shirley Fox, R.B.A., a member of the Society, to paint Mr. Carlyon-Britton’s portrait for presentation to him on behalf of the Society.

Although limited to a nominal sum the subscriptions came in so readily and so promptly from the members generally, that not only was the cost of the painting, its frame and tablet defrayed, but a balance has been handed over to the treasurer of the Society.

The presentation was made at the Ordinary Meeting of the Society held on June 23rd, 1909, but it was thought that the proceedings should be published in this volume whilst the interest taken in the matter is fresh in mind.

The following is the stenographer’s report:—
Presentation to Mr. Carlyon-Britton.

Wednesday, June 23rd, 1909.

W. J. Andrew, Esq., F.S.A., President, in the Chair.

The President:—

Mr. Carlyon-Britton, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I think we are gathered together to-night on, perhaps, the most pleasant occasion we have experienced since the inauguration of the Society, now nearly six years ago; that is the presentation of a portrait of himself to Mr. Carlyon-Britton not only as our first President but especially as the chief founder of this Society. I believe that it is exactly six years ago to-day since a momentous journey was undertaken by Mr. Carlyon-Britton, Mr. Lawrence and myself; for it was on that occasion that Mr. Carlyon-Britton first propounded the then seemingly preposterous proposition: “Let us have an all-British Society.” We were on our way to Winchester on one of our usual archaeological excursions, and the proposition when it came upon us seemed to us so abnormal that we hesitated, and I am afraid that I, for one, shook my head. I told him that long ago Mr. Sharp Ogden and I had discussed the possibility of an all-British numismatic society, but then all we could see ahead of us was perhaps a hundred members, and financially on a hundred members it would have been quite impossible to run a journal worthy of the subject. But Mr. Carlyon-Britton at once replied, “Well, I am sure that I can get two hundred at least off my own bat,” so Mr. Lawrence and I undertook to act as Government—Opposition, if you like—Whips to our leader. That really was the dawn of the British Numismatic Society, and it was only six years ago this month. Obstacles there were to be faced, of course; we expected them. More than one Remus jumped over our walls, but Mr. Carlyon-Britton was a strong man, and our walls continued to grow higher and higher, until now you who are here to-night know what the result of his hard work and strenuous energy has been. It was certainly an opportune moment. I think that the strides education has made in the last few years have been vast, and have ripened society for the
indulgence in a science such as ours, a science which is so closely wrapped up with the history of ourselves and the history of our nation. We took full advantage of this and our efforts were responded to in the most cordial manner throughout the country and our dominions—beyond it. But, let me tell you that when some of you numismatic pioneers joined us and a well-known name came in, so welcome was your assistance at that time, that we even telegraphed to each other the results of the canvass, and I think if you will look in the returns for 1903, so vast was our correspondence, that it was actually a record year for the Post Office.

Of course, Mr. Carlyon-Britton was well known in numismatics at that time, but it has been a significant fact that with the advance of our Society his knowledge and learning have more than kept pace with the times, until with general consent they have placed him at the head of the British numismatic world; and thanks to him in a very great measure indeed, our Journal has become the vehicle of numismatic knowledge on British subjects. We owe to him the elucidation of many of the problems which were puzzling us only a few years ago. You know that he has disclosed the nucleus—an entirely unthought-of nucleus of a coinage by the early princes of Wales; you know that he has discovered, or re-opened if you like, mint after mint, such as Berkeley, Christchurch, Pembroke and Ythancæster, the Roman fort in Essex, also others which for the moment have slipped my memory, for they flow in a constant stream; you know that he is engaged, at present, on what is and will be the standard work of the early Norman coinage of the Conqueror and his successor; you know that he has settled the problem of whether or not there was a local coinage in Cornwall in Saxon and Norman times; and I may say, as an evidence of the power of his pen, that only last year the Royal Institution of Cornwall awarded to him their triennial gold medal; that is, the medal which is given for the best paper published on scientific subjects affecting the county of Cornwall during the three current years, and that medal was earned by our late President for a paper which you have no doubt read in vol. iii of the Journal. As to the courtesy of his demeanour, you see that day by day, and have seen it year after
year, when he is in the Chair and when he is out of it. It is perhaps
in a great measure to that courtesy that the Society owes the unanimity
of its brotherhood, because I think in no Society do Members meet
and talk so freely and vent their views so readily, and with so little
hesitation, as they do in this room; and I am sure it is my wish, and
the wish of all of you, that never will come the time when anyone will
hesitate to get up and propound a theory, however heterodox it may
be, simply because he thinks he may be laughed at; let us have no
hesitation and let us have no whisperings.

Before I finish speaking of our late President and his influence,
there is another matter so closely connected with ourselves that,
perhaps, I ought to have put it first, that is, that we are also indebted
to the loyal support that Mrs. Carlyon-Britton has always given her
husband; and I may say that many a Meeting, almost every Meeting,
has been brightened by her presence. She is one who is fit to adorn
any position that her husband now or in the future may occupy, and I
hope whenever we see Mr. Carlyon-Britton here we shall also see him
accompanied by his wife and family. I even regret that her portrait is
not beside him in the picture I shall presently have the pleasure of
unveiling.

Now all the numismatic work that our late President has under-
taken, and that I have mentioned, has been done in the last five years;
and, really, it is a surprising fact that all was done when he was also
bearing the routine work of the Society. He had his own Presidential
work, and he had also, and has to-day, the routine of work of this
Society; yet last year when I was suffering indisposition he also
undertook the editorial work. How it is possible for one man to do so
much in a given time I do not know; for my part I think the editorial
work is quite sufficient for one man to do. I daresay the routine work
is even more tedious and requires more time and attention. We have
to thank him also and his partner, our good friend Mr. Upton, for
having placed at our disposal throughout all this time the beautiful
suite of rooms that we occupy. We come here and enjoy them just as
if they were ours, but I think we do not forget that we are indebted to
Mr. Carlyon-Britton and his partner for their use. That means a
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great deal; it means that it enables us to put nearly the whole of our large revenue into our Journal. We know what a costly matter a journal is, and you know that our Journal has thereby reaped considerable advantage, an advantage that I hope it will always maintain. Having spoken as I have of Mr. Carlyon-Britton you will sympathize, I am sure, with my personal feelings when suddenly I found that the cloak of Elijah, the President, was thrown from his shoulders upon mine. To follow a strong man like Mr. Carlyon-Britton is no easy task, and I assure you that the garment did not fit, I was too small for it, and I feel to-night very much too small for it—not only theoretically but practically; but I do hope that some day that garment will go back to its owner and that it will then be unshrunk. Now, I must turn to the picture which I am about to unveil.

The President then unveiled the picture amid applause, and continued: You will grant that true portraiture is true art, and here we have, I think you will all agree with me, true portraiture. In the old days, you know, the painter was expected to paint to please his model. Miss Farquhar tells us that Queen Elizabeth objected to any shades being cast upon her face in her portraits, because they were not actually there. Powder may have been there, but shades, she said, were not. Oliver Cromwell, on the other hand, with the true spirit of Art, insisted that the wart upon his nose had as much right to a prominent position in the picture as had the nose itself. There he was right. But sometimes it comes hard upon the artist. I remember being present at the presentation of his portrait to a well-known Mayor, and I am sorry to say that Nature had left his features very much in the rough. Now the portrait was good, and everyone eulogized it and the artist, and everybody commented upon what a speaking likeness it was of his Worship. At last it came to the poor old Mayor’s turn to respond, and turning sadly to the picture he said, “Yes, if only it could have been a speaking likeness and reproduce what I say and not what I am, it would have been better for the community; but I must admit that it is a wonderful portrait because it is almost as ugly as I am.” I think we need not lament because we have here, not only a speaking likeness, but a likeness that will speak for itself.
Presentation to Mr. Carlyon-Britton.

I now turn to my friend, Mr. Carlyon-Britton, and say:—Mr. Carlyon-Britton, I have the honour on behalf of the British Numismatic Society to present to you this portrait of yourself as a token of the Society's appreciation of the work you have done in its interests, and to combine with it the unanimous wish of every Member that you may long live to continue that good work and to further the interests of the Society which you have led to its present phenomenal success.

Mr. Carlyon-Britton, who was received with continued applause:—

Mr. President and Dear Old Friends,—I thank you very sincerely for all the good things you have said in most courteous terms about, I fear, my unworthy self. I thank you one and all, most of you my old friends, many of you friends that I hope in time will become old friends, for the kindly way in which you have received the very eulogistic remarks that the President has been good enough to make in reference to my numismatic work. I do feel that the Society has made very great progress and has done very excellent work, but I do not take upon myself the large share of credit in respect of those matters that Mr. Andrew has been good enough in his unselfish way to attribute to me. The work of the Society has been done with the very loyal support of all those principally concerned in its formation. In its origin, no one took a greater interest than Mr. Andrew. With him my old friend, Mr. Lawrence, was eminently associated, and I am happy to say not only did they take an interest in the matter and in its incipiency, but both of them have continued to take an interest in the matter which I hope will grow rather than recede in the coming years.

Those two names I mention as those of the two who were associated with me in the very early days of the Society; in fact, we used to talk of ourselves as the Triumvirate. Of course, that is not exactly a British term, but it conveyed our meaning; but now if one were to try to invent a term it would be very difficult to get, and I should say one would have to borrow another Roman term, that is "legion," and call ourselves a legion of loyal soldiers, soldiers who are capable of advancing the cause that they have at heart. And although in our early days
there were certain people whose traditions did not enable them to see, perhaps, truly the position that we took up, that is, that more attention to the numismatics associated with our own great country, associations of countries, and indeed Empire, was required. But now, I think, it is fully recognized that that narrow view was a mistake, and that there is ample room in London and still more in England, and still more so in the great British Empire for more than one Society to unravel the numerous records, numerous historical circumstances, numerous facts that in many cases lie buried in our records unread, unconsidered, that deal not only with the coinage of the country, but also with the history of the great people to which all here present, or nearly all here present, have the honour to belong.

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I do not think that the British Numismatic Society requires any sort of an apology, but to those of the general public who are yet unacquainted with the light that we endeavour to throw upon the subject, I think it is a convenient opportunity to explain that our desire is to promote numismatic science, and particularly British numismatic science, to its fullest possible extent, and to educate those who are still remaining in ignorance on the subject, with the real importance that can be got out of a proper study of a science that if taken as a mere matter of collecting would be a very poor thing indeed. We do not take the little impressed discs of metal that we are so much interested in merely as little bits of metal, either of gold, silver or copper, but we try to clothe the history of those pieces by associating with them the circumstances in which they were produced, the histories not only of the countries, of the kings and of the moneyers, but also of the towns and the localities in which they were manufactured. Now, as compared with the very popular amusement of the day, stamp-collecting, let us look at numismatics. Stamp-collecting has a limit. There is a very large number of stamps, but stamps were only started in the reign of our late Queen Victoria, and fairly late in that reign as to many of the countries that now use them. But numismatics even in this country, in Great Britain, go back, at a moderate estimate, to 150 years B.C., and all those coins were issued by authority, either by the king or by some very important person indeed,
and in many instances the names of those kings and potentates are only preserved to us to-day by the circumstance that their names have been recorded upon the coins that are, in effect, imperishable monuments of British history. Think of these words, Ladies and Gentlemen! Just think of the possibilities of our pursuit! And if you think of them for a very short time, you will see that the views of any scoffers who regard the pursuit as trivial are most ill-placed.

I fear that I have, perhaps, on this occasion, as on many another, wearied you by telling you things that you would, doubtless, tell me you know already; I feel that many of these important numismatic truths are very evident to you all, so I will not further trespass upon your time except by saying this—that the very best testimonial that you can give to me, to our President, or to any of the members of the Council of this Society, is to continue the good work that you have started; not to draw back, not to get tired, but to continue not only to do good work yourselves, but to spread the light of your knowledge amongst those who hitherto have not received so full a portion of enlightenment.

In conclusion I thank your President, I thank all of you, and in particular those of you who subscribed to this pleasing memorial of myself, most sincerely for your more than generous appreciation of my efforts in a cause I love. As to whether I shall take the view of the Mayor who was quoted or not, I do not know—("No!")—but I am afraid the picture is rather like me, and I congratulate the artist on having produced a good representation of a somewhat poor original. And with those words, and again thanking you most sincerely, I will relieve you from further trouble in reference to my very verbose condition.

**Major Freer:**

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It gives me great pleasure, Mr. President, to obey your commands, but I can only imagine the reason you have appealed to me to carry them out is because I have had some experience as an Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of various Funds in my own county of Leicester. We all
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here know that the money, however freely given, for this splendid portrait of our late President could not have been got together without an immense amount of hard work and correspondence on the part of somebody, and I am sure you will all feel that we could not part to-night without expressing our most hearty thanks to Col. Morrieson, for the great amount of time and trouble that he has expended in carrying this work to such a successful conclusion. I therefore now beg most heartily to move:

“That our best thanks be given to Col. Morrieson for the duties he has undertaken and performed as our Treasurer and Secretary of this testimonial.”

MR. STROUD:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—You have called upon me without my having had the smallest notion that you would put that honour upon me. All I can do is to say that I most heartily agree with every word that has been said by Major Freer in recognition of the services Col. Morrieson so ably rendered to us all, and I am quite sure I could not say anything so well myself. I will therefore simply add that I second with the utmost possible cordiality the vote that has been so well and so suitably proposed this evening by our friend.

The Resolution on being put to the Meeting was carried with acclamation.

COL. MORRIESON:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is very good of you to applaud me in this nice way, but I can assure you that the labour that I undertook was no trouble; it was a labour of love; and I am sure that anything I could do to show the respect which we have for our President, as he was at the time this movement was started, and to prove to him how we appreciate his efforts to bring the Society into the state at which it has arrived, was really no trouble nor difficulty to me.

If I may begin with the genesis of the matter, it arose from a
discussion as to how we could mark our appreciation of the work of the President during the five years he had occupied that position. It was first of all suggested that we should have a dinner. Well, a dinner is very nice; we should have met, we should have dined, wined, talked, and presently gone away, and after the feeling of dyspepsia in the morning had passed, it would all have been forgotten. So it was thought that some lasting memorial should be given to our first President in order that he might have something to look at when the toil of the day was done, that he might turn round in his dining-room or drawing-room,—or wherever he may be pleased to place this portrait of himself,—and look at it and say, “At any rate, whatever I have done for the British Numismatic Society has been appreciated, and the Members have presented me with this”; and therefore he would have some tangible object to show that his services had been appreciated.

Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, as you know, I issued a circular to you, and I can assure you that it was responded to with alacrity. There were Members who wished to give more than the amount I asked, but I thought we should require a certain amount of money and I thought that we should get it. It came in, and I have received more than the actual cost of the portrait.

Well, looking back to December when these circulars were sent out, it grieved me when referring to the list the other day to see how many have been called or have travelled to that bourne from whence no traveller returns. You also would be really grieved to know how many of the subscribers are no longer with us. Amongst the latest to go was Mr. Cary-Elwes, who wrote to me two or three letters on this subject, full of energy, full of agreement with the object, and it is a very sad thing that before this portrait could be presented he is no longer here. Among others who have passed away is our good friend, Mr. Hilton Price. There was also the Hon. F. Strutt who by return of post wrote a very laudatory letter of our first President, heartily endorsing the proposition of subscribing to his portrait. Amongst others there was Mr. Mallalieu, of Derby; and there were some others, but I will not go through their names because it is a sad
thing. Anyhow, it shows, Ladies and Gentlemen, how very enthusiastically and how very sympathetically the appeal for support of this testimonial was received. I can assure you it was really marvellous, and it was very pleasing to me to get these letters, and to note the very rapid way in which the money was sent in.

Passing from that, I am pleased to say that after we have settled the bill for this picture there will be a small balance over. I propose, subject to your consent, that whatever is over shall be handed to the Society to enable it to reproduce as a frontispiece for our Proceedings in vol. v of our *Journal* a copy of this excellent portrait, so that every member when he receives his volume will have a picture of our revered Ex-President. I must also say that our artist is Mr. Shirley Fox, whom we all know so well, and who has recently so ably explained the construction of mediaeval dies and the methods by which numismatic portraits were constructed. It was a delight to ask him to undertake the commission, and you can see what a labour of love he has thrown into it. I have been to his studio on various occasions, and the interest and the desire on his part to achieve a good portrait of his model were very charming to see. His desire was that we should give Mr. Carlyon-Britton of the best, and it lies with you, Ladies and Gentlemen, to say whether he has done so. Personally, I congratulate Mr. Fox on his work, and trust that he may live long to do many others. Ladies and Gentlemen, I have talked to you a great deal, and I am much obliged to you for your vote of thanks.

**MR. SHIRLEY FOX:**

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is very kind of you to ask me to say a word. I am really very glad just to have an opportunity of thanking you all most cordially for the kind way in which you have received the picture, and I should also like to say, while I have the chance, how very much pleasure it gave me to paint it. When Col. Morrieson asked me whether I should be prepared to paint our late President I naturally was only too delighted. I am afraid that the sittings may have been somewhat of a trial to Mr. Carlyon-Britton. I used to drag him away from his work here down to Kensington in
the fog, when he did not want to come, and we had some rather bad
times. If we could not paint, which happened more than once, we
could talk about coins, and so our time was not altogether wasted.
Therefore, the painting of the picture was not only a pleasure to me,
but I think we may say that in a small way it was a slight advancement
of numismatics. I do not think I need add any more, but I am sure I
am deeply grateful for the kind words which I have listened to this
evening, and I beg to thank you all most heartily.

THE PRESIDENT read the following letter from Sir Frederick
Dixon-Hartland:—

14, CHESHAM PLACE, S.W.,
June 21st, 1909.

Dear Mr. Carlyon-Britton,

I write to say how very much annoyed I am that in consequence
of the Budget discussion in the House of Commons I am unable to be
present at the presentation of your portrait on the 23rd June, which I
should otherwise have certainly attended as I am one who fully
appreciates how much you have done for British Numismatics and how
thoroughly you deserve the honour bestowed upon you.

If in order, I should be glad if the Secretary would read this
acknowledgment to the Meeting.

Yours very truly,

F. D. DIXON-HARTLAND.

With reference to Col. Morrieson’s suggestion that the portrait
should be reproduced in the papers of this volume, Mr. Carlyon-
Britton writes:—

Whilst I sincerely appreciate the compliment offered to me, or to
my portrait, by Col. Morrieson’s suggestion, I feel that the personal
element should, so far as possible, be eliminated from the scope of our
journal. Its pages are for the advancement of numismatic science, and
a modern portrait does not come within that category. I trust, there-
fore, that the members will bear with me if I prefer to remain “an
unpublished type.”