Proceedings of the Society.

By Miss H. Farquhar:—Charles II. An unrecorded oval badge bearing the same bust as *Medallic Illustrations*, Vol. I, p. 453, No. 38, but with a different reverse.

*Obverse*: Head of Charles II in profile to right, bare-headed, with hair long. No legend.

*Reverse*: The royal arms within the garter, crowned. Incuse.

By Mr. H. Garside:—A specimen of the bronze Memorial Plaque to those who fell in the Great War.

Papers.

A Groat of Henry VIII.

Mr. Raymond Carlyon-Britton contributed a short paper upon a groat of the first coinage of Henry VIII which he had sent for inspection. *Obverse*: *HENRIC* × *VIII* × *DI* × *GRAT* × *REX* × *TCL* × *Æ* × *FR* of the usual type of the first coinage, but with mint-mark portcullis-crowned, struck over *Æ*-crowned. *Reverse*: *DOSVI*, etc., but with an ornamented trefoil within each of the forks which terminate the arms of the cross; mint-mark portcullis-crowned. He suggested that the dies were originally, that is, before the alteration of the obverse mint-mark, intended for the Tournai issue of English type, following the two earlier Tournai issues of French workmanship; but, being rejected in favour of the type actually struck, of which we have specimens, they were used for the ordinary English issue from the Tower mint, and the mint-mark on the obverse altered to the portcullis-crowned accordingly.

The paper is printed in this volume.

The Golden Solidus of Hama.

Mr. Alfred Anscombe read a paper intituled "The Golden solidus of Hama, called *Rex Britanniae*." The piece in question was found at Harlingen in Friesland, and engraved as No. 58 under "Bracteates, etc.," in Stephens's *Runic Monuments*. It had always been regarded as a copy of an *aureus* of Theodosius the Great,
A.D. 379–395, but Mr. Anscombe construed certain imitation letters in the legend as FIL A, for *filius Arcadii*, and attributed it to Theodosius the Younger. The curious divergences of opinion, he said, respecting the figure of Hama on the reverse were exposed, and the light weight of the piece explained. The letters in the exergue were read as VG and he expanded them into *Vandogara*, which he identified as Bonchester in Roxburghshire. "This place-name need not be regarded as that of a mint town. It was much more likely to be the place at which Hama *Rex Britanniae* experienced the victory, the surprising and unexpected nature of which is indicated by the circumstances depicted on the reverse of Hama’s *aureus*." The change in late Latin pronunciation from *v* to *b* was explained, and *Vinovium*, or Binchester, was proffered on the authority of the *Holy Grail* as the official residence of "Camaor seneschal of Orberique," or Binchester, in whom Mr. Anscombe recognised Hama. In the *Morte d'Arthur* he appeared as Duke Cambines, in a fifteenth-century manuscript of the *Liber Historiae Francorum* as Cham, King of the Bretons, A.D. 560; and, finally, subject to a very free correction of dates, he was claimed as the "Hama Rex Britanniae," of the title of the paper, stated in the *Historia Danica* of Saxo Grammaticus to have been father of Aella the ninth-century king of Northumbria. As King Arthur, said Mr. Anscombe, won a great victory over the Saxons at Cair Guinuion, or Binchester, shortly before A.D. 470, the approximate date of Hama’s *aureus* would be A.D. 465.

The runes composing the name, which was placed in the legend to the left of the reverse design, were explained, and the third, which was in dispute and had been read *d* by recent authorities, was asserted to be *m* for the reasons that the point of intersection of the crossbars was above the centre of the letter, and the crossbars did not make an angle at the base of each staff.

The Meeting, however, did not accept Mr. Anscombe’s theories. In the discussion that followed, Mr. Andrew thought that any such person as "Hama *Rex Britanniae*" was an historic myth. The alleged "golden *solidus*" was neither coin nor medal but, like the
Scanomodu piece, the subject of Mr. Anscombe’s previous and similar paper, it belonged to a numerous class of pendant ornaments worn as golden charms against sickness and evil. Any doubt as to this was set at rest by the fact that both ornaments still bore remains of the curious, but usual, barrel-shaped loop for their suspension from a cord round the neck. Both were copied from Roman coins, probably already rare in northern Europe, because of the cabalistic superstition attached to written characters of unknown meaning—a superstition that had survived almost to modern times. As such, they bore the Roman emperor’s head on the obverse, and on the reverse an imitation of the then common design of the Roman emperor standing, holding a standard and the figure of Victory. In each case, in a position on the reverse where it would least spoil the picture, was the name in runes of the goldsmith who made the ornament. This, again, was certain, because other examples existed bearing the same reverse design, with the fuller runic inscription that so-and-so “made this for luck.” Even the fylfot, the symbol of luck, was added to many; and one copied from a Byzantine aureus informed us in Latin that OTI ME FECIT. Similar imitation coins occurred as pendants to Anglo-Saxon necklaces of the seventh and eighth centuries.

Mr. H. A. Parsons was quite sure that the third rune ought to be read $d$, and not $m$. The upright staves projected equally above and below the crossbars, and the rare name Hama must give place to the then natural and common name Hada. Also, the ornament was found in Friesland, where the $d$-rune in use was exactly as shown upon it.

Finally, the President believed that the ornament was copied from an aureus of Theodosius the Great—not the Younger—and that the letters VG in the exergue, which Mr. Anscombe had expanded into Vandogara, were taken from a worn or imperfect impression of the exergual legend AVG OB on the Roman prototype.
ORDINARY MEETING,

THE FIRST MEETING AT 1, UPPER MONTAGUE STREET,

Wednesday, March 23rd, 1921.

Mr. F. A. Walters, F.S.A.,
President, in the Chair.

The Secretary having reported the result of his advertisements and negotiations for premises suitable for the Society’s new home, the President, acting upon the advice of Lieut.-Col. H. W. Morrieson, who had inspected those offered, expressed the Members’ appreciation of the courtesy of the Society of Medical Officers of Health in offering the use of the handsome suite of rooms in which the Meeting was held pending negotiations for a permanent arrangement, which he trusted would be satisfactory to both Societies.

The President then presented to Colonel Morrieson the John Sanford Saltus gold medal which had been awarded to him by the triennial ballot of the Members at the Anniversary Meeting, saying:—

Colonel Morrieson,

At the Annual Meeting of the British Numismatic Society last St. Andrew’s Day, the triennial ballot, open to all the Members, was held for the award of the John Sanford Saltus gold medal.

It gave pleasure to us all, I feel sure, to find that it had been voted to you, and I had hoped to have the pleasing duty of presenting the medal to you in the usual course at our following Meeting in January. You were, however, prevented from being present on that occasion, and, as we all know, the Meeting for February had to be abandoned owing to the change in the Society’s address.

I have now the great pleasure of presenting you with the medal in the names of Mr. John Sanford Saltus and of the Society, and of expressing to you my own personal gratification that, owing to my position, this agreeable duty falls upon me.
In presenting the medal, it is, I think, desirable to recall the fact that it is awarded in recognition of papers read before the Society, and published in *The British Numismatic Journal*, and if we look through the past volumes we shall find how great and how valuable is the work that you have contributed.

Your special interest in and study of the coinage of the Tudor and Stuart periods has resulted in contributions of an exhaustive nature, which have greatly added to our knowledge of the coinage of certain reigns, more particularly from Henry VIII to Charles I, which will be lasting records of your devotion to British numismatic science.

I may, perhaps, express the additional pleasure it gives us that it should happen that in you the medal is awarded to one who has filled the position of President of the Society for the full period that is possible under the rules, with a tact and geniality that has earned the esteem and gratitude of us all during a very difficult period.

Colonel Morrieson, in reply, expressed his thanks to the President for the words he had said, and his sincere appreciation of the honour accorded to him by the Members.

The Secretary reported the following generous offers from Members:

By Mr. Frank E. Burton, in support of the Editor's scheme printed in the Council's Report of November 30th last to avoid the necessity for increasing the subscriptions, ten guineas.

By Miss H. Farquhar, towards the expenses of the Society's removal to its new home, ten pounds.

By Mr. H. A. Bennie Gray, including the purchase of a set of past volumes of the *Journal*, ten pounds.

By Mr. F. Willson Yeates, an invitation to the Society to hold the present Meeting at his house.

A vote of grateful thanks, moved from the Chair, was passed to each of these Members.
Mr. T. G. Barnett and Mr. G. H. Stafford were elected Members.

Exhibitions.

By Mr. H. A. Parsons:—A series of late Anglo-Saxon coins in unusually good preservation to illustrate the sequence of types described in his paper.

By Mr. William C. Wells:—Early British quarter stater, Evans, plate C, No. 14, found at Earl's Barton, Northamptonshire. Henry I. Three pennies of Hawkins, Type 262; obverse, *HENRILVS·REX; reverse, *LEFTEIN:ON·STAN; Stamford, an annulet upon the left shoulder. Obverse, *HENRILVS; reverse from the same die as the preceding coin. Obverse similar, reverse *GODPINE:ON:TE[TF]. Thetford.

By Mr. G. R. Francis:—Eadgar. A penny of British Museum Catalogue type I, but with obverse legend +EADEAR·REX B; reverse, IEEN·MÖN.

By the President:—Henry VIII. Groat of the second coinage, mint-mark, rose: of fine work and unusual portrait; the legends on both sides of transitional Renaissance character; reverse, cross with floriated ends. He explained that examples were known bearing one side or the other of this variety, but he was not aware of any other coin combining both. Groat of similar character as to portrait and other affinities, but with ordinary Lombardic lettering, the a of the king's name being the d of the previous coin. The ordinary example for comparison.

Paper.

HOARDS OF LATE ANGLO-SAXON COINS.

Mr. H. Alexander Parsons read a paper entitled "Remarks on Hoards of Late Anglo-Saxon Coins," in which he considered the points of value of the evidence afforded by finds of coins of the period; at the same time exposing the fallacy of dealing with such evidence
on hitherto accepted lines. Remark ing upon the few hoards of
the time in which the number of coins of each type were recorded,
the lecturer was able to show, from a chart of such hoards, that a
marked line of cleavage in the coinage existed at the time of the
last issue of Eadgar, which indicated a change in the legal tender.
Advancing to a more detailed consideration of the finds, he urged
that the evidence of hoards which had been deposited in the
Scandinavian countries must be treated on different lines from that
afforded by the coins discovered in the British Islands, for the
Danegelt payments had an important bearing on the deductions
which could justly be made from the evidence of any of the finds,
whether in this country or abroad, since these large payments
must have materially affected the output of some of the types.

The lecturer was able to add to, or qualify, many of the
conclusions arrived at by previous writers on the hoards discussed,
and adverted to certain unusual features of the last find, that at
Chester in 1914, which merited special treatment.

The paper is printed in this volume.

ORDINARY MEETING

Wednesday, April 27th, 1921.

Mr. F. A. Walters, F.S.A.

President, in the Chair.

The Secretary having reported the result of his interviews
and correspondence with Mr. George S. Elliston and Mr. Parsons,
as Librarian, having explained his proposed adaptation of the
third room for the purposes of the Society’s library, it was unani-
mously resolved that the terms arranged with the Society of Medical
Officers of Health for the use of the suite of rooms at No. 1, Upper
Montague Street be approved.
Meeting, April 27th, 1921.

The President remarked that the Members would appreciate the courtesy shown to the Society by the Medical Officers of Health and their Secretary, Mr. G. S. Elliston, throughout these pleasant negotiations.

The Secretary reported the following further gifts to the Society:—

By Mr. Ernest H. Wheeler, the rent of the room to be used as the Library.

By Major William J. Freer, £10 towards the cost of the new bookcases now required.

By Dr. R. T. Cassal, of Abertillery, Bankers' order trebling his subscription from January 1st last, and in future.

A vote of grateful thanks, moved from the Chair, was accorded to each of these generous Members.

Exhibitions.

The Chester Mint.

By Mr. Willoughby Gardner:—The collection of coins of the Chester mint referred to under the synopsis of his paper.

By Miss Helen Farquhar:—Edward the Confessor. Penny, 
_Hawkins_ 227, obverse, +EADPAR | D RE, reverse +EDHSIG ON LEIGE. Charles I. Halfcrown; mint-mark three garbs, the arms of Chester, and CHST below the horse; _Ruding_, xxvi, 2.

General.

By the President:—Two stycas of the series attributed by Mr. H. A. Parsons¹ to Æthelred I of Northumbria, one reading +EILRED RE, with reverse +EADVINI as figure 7; the other +EDELRED E nearly as figure 6, with reverse as figures 4 and 5. In the legends several of the letters are, as usual, reversed or inverted.

¹ Volume x, pp. 1-8, of the _Journal_.