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The influx of new Members that occurred in the years immediately after the war is now slowing up, but I am glad to report to you that in 1949 elections totalling thirteen still exceeded by eight our losses. For the well-being of the Society it is important that we should continue to expand, and the fact that over the last four years we have elected nearly one hundred new Members is satisfactory evidence of the interest and keenness that is shown in British numismatics.

This year we have been proud to send our greetings and good wishes to our old friend Miss Helen Farquhar on her ninetieth birthday. I saw her myself that day and can not only vouch to you the pleasure that the Society's greetings gave her but can add that, though old in years, she is still as delightfully young in spirit as ever.

To our list of honorary members, a list that in this Society is always extremely restricted, we have this year added the name of Mr. C. A. Whitton in recognition of his many services to the Society both as author and editor, a recognition which I know you will all agree he fully deserves.

Of the three Members whose deaths occurred this year you would, I feel sure, wish me first to refer to Mr. L. A. Lawrence. He was one of the prime movers in forming the Society forty-six years ago and was throughout one of the principal contributors to the Journal. His papers are far too numerous to list to-night, but it will suffice to remind you of his work on the First or Tealby coinage of Henry II, on the Short- and Long-cross issues, on the reign of Henry VII, and, most important of all, his "Coinage of Edward III". Lawrence carried on the great tradition of English numismatics of Ruding, Hawkins, and Evans. He had handed the torch on to Brooke, with whom he collaborated for many years as an honorary member of the Coin-room staff at the British Museum, and Brooke's early death was an acute loss to him. Brooke dedicated his English Coins to "My friend and helper, L. A. Lawrence", and it is as a friend and helper that he will be remembered by us who honour his memory to-day.

Another founder Member whose death I must record was Mr. W. C. Wells. Like Lawrence, a Medallist of the Society, Wells's special interest lay in the later Saxon and Norman periods, where he made a special study of the mints of Northampton and Southampton and of Stamford and Peterborough, the results of which were published in our Journal. Formerly a regular attendant at our meetings, ill health has latterly kept him away.
Mr. C. J. Bunn, whose death also occurred this year, had been a Member for fifteen years. Although known to many of us he did not often attend our meetings and did not, I believe, contribute to the Journal.

THE YEAR'S WORK

The papers laid before the Society have shown a healthy interest in a wide range of subjects. First in point of date, but not of importance, were some notes of my own on certain unpublished or lost Anglo-Saxon coins found in preparing for a new edition of Brooke's English Coins, a work we may hope to see published in the near future. The material for the Addendum, which will distinguish this edition from earlier ones, has been collected by various Members of the Society under the editorship of Mr. Whitton, who has been at great pains to ensure its conformity to the standard of the original work. The publishers are printing separate copies of this Addendum which will be sent out to Members free of charge as soon as they are available.

Mr. Elmore Jones spoke on a late-Saxon and early-Norman money er, Godsbrand, hitherto tentatively attributed to Shaftesbury, and showed from a study of die identities that Shrewsbury was the more likely mint. There is undoubtedly more work of this nature still to be done in this series by the patient study of individual dies and we hope that he and others will continue it.

Dr. Davidson has discussed the significance of the small letters found on the reverse of certain coins of David II of Scotland, a problem that has long exercised Scottish numismatists.

In the Tudor series we have been given further instalments of their major works on Henry VII and Henry VIII by Mr. Winstanley and Mr. Whitton respectively. It is planned to start the publication of these shortly; Mr. Whitton's manuscript is now complete and in the hands of the press.

Among new readers we are glad to welcome Mr. Pridmore, who read on the official piercing of coins of the hammered issues that took place in William III's reign to denote that such pieces could only pass by weight; Mr. Mason, who in the course of a note on a plated Ormonde crown, gave some interesting details of the various methods of plating; and Mr. Linecar, who spoke of the centenary of that strangely unpopular coin, the florin.

In the colonial field Mr. Anthony Thompson read two short papers, one on "Documents illustrating the Export of Counterfeit Currency to the West Indies", the other on "The Smuggling of Gold and Silver Bullion by British Naval Officers with special reference to the Spanish Dollar".

PUBLICATIONS

The year has seen no major publication on British Numismatics, but some useful work has been produced. The Numismatic Chronicle for the second half of 1947 contained reports on a number of hoards: the Bredgar hoard of gold of Edward III and Richard II (the full account
of which was destroyed by enemy action) by Mr. Derek Allen and Mr. Whitton; an early fifteenth-century hoard from near King's Lynn and two Civil War hoards from Glympton, Oxon., and Bingley, Yorks., by Mr. Carson; and from Ilkeston, Derbyshire, a hoard of modern gold, the latest dated 1912, surely, as had so often occurred in the past, the treasure of a victim of war. The volume for the first half of 1948 has some Anglo-Saxon notes by Dr. Philip Nelson, notes by Mr. Parsons on the mint of Galway and by Mr. Kerr on the 40s. piece of James VI and by Mr. Thompson on a curious sixteenth-century hoard from the Scilly Isles composed of contemporary forgeries.

Lately there has reached us a valuable paper by Mr. O'Sullivan on the earliest coinage of Ireland in which he lists moneyers' and mint names found on coins of probably Hiberno-Danish origin and illustrates, from the hoards deposited in Dublin, representative specimens of the curious bracteate and semi-bracteate issues. Mr. O'Sullivan is now engaged on a detailed study of the first Anglo-Irish coinage, the halfpennies of John (1177–99), based on the 1,200 specimens in Dublin, the results of which should be extremely interesting.

The Hamburger Beiträge zur Numismatik has issued its third number in which appears an article by Herr Kennepohl on the significance of certain gold issues in Germany in a predominantly silver age, a subject that has lately engaged our attention in this country. There is also a report by Herr Steilberg on a thirteenth-century hoard from Köln-Dünnwald that contains 85 Long-cross pennies of Henry III and 3 pennies of Alexander III of Scotland, all of which are described in detail.

Spink's Numismatic Circular has published a valuable article by Mr. Carlyon-Britton on the first coinage of Edward VI which is to be followed shortly by further articles on the same reign. One could wish that a means could be found to produce the illustrations more effectively, no easy matter when dealing with debased coins, often ill-struck.

To Lady Fox we are indebted for bringing to notice a small hoard, temp. Edward the Elder, found at Bangor in 1894 and now in the University College Museum of Antiquities there. This is now published in the centenary number of the journal of the Cambrian Archaeological Association.

Finally, mention must be made of a number of handy publications produced by Messrs. Seaby, which should tend to increase interest in coin collecting.

Museum Acquisitions

Comparatively few museum acquisitions in the British series fall to be recorded this year. The British Museum has received a gift of a further 120 Admiral Vernon medals from Commander McCormack-Goodhart that makes its collection one of the most complete that there is. More should need to be recorded next year. Under Mr.
Lawrence's will the British Museum has the right to purchase such of his coins as they may choose in advance of the sale. In the medieval series the collection was extraordinarily rich in minor varieties besides having a large number of major rarities. It is to be hoped that the Museum will be in a position to afford to take full advantage of Mr. Lawrence's wish that it should have the first choice of varieties that it may need.

The Ashmolean Museum at Oxford has acquired six Armorican staters from the St. Brelade hoard; five Wallingford pennies: Edgar, _B.M.C._ iv, _PVLSTN M'O PELIGN_; Edward the Confessor, _B.M.C._ xiii, by Brihtmær; William I, _B.M.C._ ii, _BRIHTMÆR ON PELI_; type II, Swartlinc; type IV, Brand. An Oxford penny of William II type III, _PVLFP1 ON OXN_. The coins of which readings have been quoted are not in _B.M.C._ Several Oxford coins of Charles I including the "pattern shilling" of 1644. This coin shows signs of circulation which leads Mr. Thompson, to whom I am indebted for these particulars, to think that it may not in fact be a pattern. Finally, a new seventeenth-century token has been acquired which Mr. Thompson will shortly publish.

At the Fitzwilliam Museum acquisitions have been for the most part in the Greek series and nothing of special interest has been added to the British cabinets.

**Treasure Trove**

The unsatisfactory state of the law of Treasure Trove was shown in connexion with a hoard of Iron-Age articles found at Snettisham in Norfolk at the end of last year. This consisted of ornaments of gold and of base alloys, bronze, brass, &c., and of tin coins. The gold was declared Treasure Trove but not the other articles. It was emphasized at the inquest how important, archaeologically, it was that the find as a whole should be kept together, but the Coroner directed the jury that they must return a verdict in accordance with the law, however cogent the arguments might be to avoid the dispersal of the hoard. I believe that arrangements were subsequently made for the whole to be kept together, but this might well not prove practicable in other cases.

**Local Societies**

In the years immediately following the war a large number of local numismatic societies and clubs were formed with which many of us here are associated, and these have proved of real value in bringing collectors together and in stimulating interest in others. In some cases these young societies have now entered a testing period. Usually they rely on the enthusiasm and energy of one or two people and there inevitably comes a time when these begin to wonder if the effort of running a society is really worth while.

I would ask all those responsible for local societies to make every effort to keep them in being. Modify the original programmes if need be; meet less often. But keep the society going. There is a great deal
of useful work that such societies can do besides the pleasure to be
derived from the comradeship to which they conduce. Local museums
can be helped with their coin-collections—and it is extraordinary how
much is to be found in such museums scattered all over the country.
Local issues of tradesmen’s tokens can be studied and a master list of
all new varieties and names made. One day—and I hope it will be
soon—a new edition of Williamson’s seventeenth-century tokens will
be called for and the editors will be immensely helped in their task
if local societies have covered their individual counties. The ready
access members have to parish registers and other local records puts
them in a position to collect data far more readily than a single editor
could ever hope to do.

There is also the listing and recording of coins of local mints struck
in the later Saxon and Norman period. I referred last year to the
extremely useful little booklet published in Ilchester of the coins of
that mint. Since then there has appeared an article by Mr. Shortt on
the Wiltshire mints, showing admirably what can be done on a county
level. There are still many coins of the later Saxon and Norman
period whose attribution is doubtful. A case has already been men-
tioned to-night. A detailed study of moneyers’ names and of the dies
they used will elucidate these problems in many cases and our Society
will always be prepared to help in this.

Finally, there is the question of recording local finds either of hoards
or of single coins. The existence of a local society whose activities
receive perhaps occasional mention in the press can do much to
ensure that hoards are not broken up before recording, as is often
done, generally more through ignorance than malice, and that the
find-spots of individual coins are not only recorded in the local museum
but, where of significance, published in the appropriate numismatic
publication. The importance of this in the case of the anonymous
Ancient British and earliest Saxon issues needs no emphasis. Find-
spots play a major part in their attribution to districts. It is also
always important in the case of Greek coins found in this county and
may well be so even for isolated Roman pieces.

And while on the subject of provenances may I stress the impor-
tance of collectors’ maintaining a record of them with the actual coin,
wherever known. To future numismatists in the light of further know-
ledge provenances of seeming unimportance may prove significant.
They should never be lost. The value of pedigrees to-day is realized.
Would it had been so fifty years or more ago. In trying to track down
all known specimens of a certain type one is constantly faced with a
doubt as to whether a piece appearing in a modern sale catalogue is
in fact the specimen mentioned in, say, the Devonshire catalogue of
1844 or whether one has a further specimen to look for. A lot of
unnecessary work is saved where a full pedigree exists, going back
ideally to the hoard in which the coin was found. This is one of the
many respects in which the British Museum catalogue of Norman
coins marks so great an advance on the Saxon catalogue.
The Library

It is with real pleasure that I am able to announce that an offer to house the Society’s library and that of the Royal Numismatic Society has been received from the Warburg Institute which is situated in the Imperial Institute Building at South Kensington. The Institute has one of the most important (if not the most important) libraries in the country on art and its associated subjects. The numismatic section was weak and the suggestion that a room should be made available for our two libraries was found to be of mutual benefit. The arrangements have still to be formally concluded, but if, as I hope, this is achieved, Members of this Society will enjoy the use of the vast resources of the Warburg Institute, a privilege that will surely be greatly valued.

The question of holding our meetings at the Institute, so that they could be made the occasion to use the libraries, was considered by the Council, but it was decided that the convenience of Members would be better served by continuing to meet more centrally in the rooms we now use.

The arrangement and cataloguing of the books, to which of necessity little attention has been given during the war, will take some time even when the formalities with the Institute are completed. Members will be notified as soon as the library is properly installed.

Finances

The heavy increase in the cost of printing has made it necessary for the Council to propose the raising of the subscription for 1950 from one to two guineas. The junior subscription will, however, remain unchanged. The Council regrets the necessity to do this, but we can, I think, be proud that we have been able to avoid it before now. In the forty-six years of the Society’s existence, that is over a period involving two world wars, the subscription has remained at the figure of one guinea originally fixed in 1903. This has been made possible by a number of generous gifts, and in the past year, in addition to the many Members who voluntarily doubled their subscriptions for 1949, we have specially to thank Mr. Bagnall, Miss Farquhar, and Commander Liveing for additional donations to the Society’s funds.

The Amethyst Medal

The exploits of H.M.S. Amethyst in the Yangtze has excited general admiration in a somewhat drab period of this country’s history. An opportunity occurred for the Society to show its appreciation when there appeared in the sale-room recently a Naval General Service Medal (1793-1840) with two bars, one of which, bearing the words “Amethyst 8 April 1809”, commemorated the exploit of an earlier Amethyst, a 36-gun frigate, that captured a French frigate the Niémen after a gallant fight. This medal was bought by the Society at the instigation of the firms of Messrs. Baldwin, Seaby and Spink, who...
have generously agreed to bear the bulk of the cost, and, with medals awarded to members of the crews of *Amethysts* in the Second China War and the First Great War, is to be presented to the present ship of that name to keep alive the memory of those earlier exploits.

I cannot end without calling the attention of Members to the debt of gratitude that they owe to the officers of the Society and in particular to the Director, the Secretary, and the Treasurer on whom falls the bulk of the work. On your behalf, and for myself also, I thank them for the time and thought they willingly give to the Society's affairs.

May I just say that we at all times welcome papers, long or short, that may be offered us, and that I hope that Members who have ideas that they wish to lay before the Society for discussion will feel no diffidence in doing so. The past year brought us several new readers and I hope that 1950 will, with the assistance of all Members, continue the progress that has been made since the war.