DR. VOLCKERS is the first scholar to publish a comprehensive inventory of Carolingian coin finds since Gabriel issued his *Les monnaies royales de France sous la race carolingienne* eighty years ago. The exacting demands which numismatists and historians have come to place on hoard evidence in the last twenty years required a new compendium of find data, and Dr. Volckers is to be congratulated on meeting those demands, at least as far as they relate to the earliest Carolingian period, with his meticulous survey.

The body of material inventoried is indeed large. Dr. Volckers has sixty-two find entries in his table of contents, but this is only a modest indication of his true scope. In fact, he describes fifteen deposits containing more than ten coins, seven containing ten or fewer, and 451 single finds. Of the latter, 162 are catalogued in the entry for Domburg and 203 in that for Dorestadt; the others have their discrete entries. Within its chronological limits, Dr. Volckers’s study is more comprehensive than the corresponding section of Gabriel’s work: leaving out of account the Domburg and Dorestadt finds and the deposits unearthed after the publication of *Monnaies royales* (of which Dr. Volckers discusses about 27), eighteen finds not mentioned by Gabriel appear in the volume under review. The Bondeno deposit, which contained several thousand coins, was dispersed before it could be thoroughly analyzed, but some mint cities represented in it are known. The St. Alban’s find, published in this *Journal* in 1958, was but a stray coin of Charlemagne. The omission of the Dorestadt find, however, is difficult to understand, especially as Dr. Volckers consulted the essay of De Coster which reports it, and, indeed, entered in his catalogue of finds most of the coins it contained. Despite De Coster’s testimony that the 48 coins in the deposit comprised one hoard, Dr. Volckers has inventoried 46 of them as though they were single finds from Dorestadt; and although De Coster registered quite satisfactory descriptions of the pieces, Dr. Volckers says explicitly in three cases (III, 35, 44, 72) that full descriptions are lacking, and neglects in most other instances to render the details warranted by De Coster’s account.

In the comprehensiveness of his catalogue, in the care with which he has studied relevant scholarly writings, in his efforts to trace hoard coins and to publish new photographs of them together with their weights, Dr. Volckers has composed an admirable work. And yet, it is a work of idiosyncracies which inspire some reserve. The first of these is that Dr. Volckers has unsystematically exceeded the stated limits of his study. Thirteen deposits and a preponderance of the Domburg and Dorestadt finds are later than the year 800. Dr. Volckers has carefully registered the contents of these deposits, without entering for the post-800 issues the detailed catalogue references and descriptions of hoard coins and related pieces which give special value to his analyses of earlier deposits.

In this regard the reviewer is unclear why Dr. Volckers, having in fact included deposits from the reign of Louis the Pious, and even from the tenth century, chose to exclude deposits containing the last (imperial) types of Charlemagne from his survey. They are not numerous, and the inclusion of deposits which, like that of Achlum, contained imperial types of Charlemagne, would have accorded with the actual chronological limits of the survey and would at the same time have provided a complete inventory of find data concerning Charlemagne’s issues.

If the treatment of post-800 finds is uneven, it is still more regrettable that the deposits of Bondeno, Dorestadt (1845/6), and St. Alban’s which consisted principally or entirely of Charlemagne’s royal issues (pre-800), have not been specifically mentioned. The Bondeno deposit, which contained several thousand coins, was dispersed before it could be thoroughly analyzed, but some mint cities represented in it are known. The St. Alban’s find, published in this *Journal* in 1958, was but a stray coin of Charlemagne. The omission of the Dorestadt find, however, is difficult to understand, especially as Dr. Volckers consulted the essay of De Coster which reports it, and, indeed, entered in his catalogue of finds most of the coins it contained. Despite De Coster’s testimony that the 48 coins in the deposit comprised one hoard, Dr. Volckers has inventoried 46 of them as though they were single finds from Dorestadt; and although De Coster registered quite satisfactory descriptions of the pieces, Dr. Volckers says explicitly in three cases (III, 35, 44, 72) that full descriptions are lacking, and neglects in most other instances to render the details warranted by De Coster’s account. Furthermore, he has omitted entries for two of the find pieces (Charlemagne, issues of Pavia and Milan).
Three other inadvertent lapses may be mentioned. The less important concern deposits at Böbingen and Worms. English numismatists, who have rightly grown wary of 'garden hoards', will perhaps put a caveat against Böbingen; and the very miscellaneous Worms deposit (XXXIII) strongly suggests confusion of coins from at least two separate finds. The third slip concerns the Sarzana find. Though Dr. Völckers rightly observes that Gariel’s account of the deposit contains four pieces not included in the authentic analysis of the hoard, which mentions only 12 coins, Dr. Völckers himself has augmented the deposit with one piece (XXVI, 3) not justified by the contemporary description of the find, apparently not observing that, if the actual deposit consisted of four pieces fewer than Gariel inventoried, it should have contained twelve coins. In much the same fashion, Dr. Völckers has added XXIII, 8 to the Jelsum find on quite tenuous evidence.

It may be added parenthetically that work published in this Journal by Mr. Dolley and me subsequent to the time Dr. Völckers’s book went to press has shown that his find LII ('unbekannter Ort in England') is the Middle Temple Find, and that his deposit LX ('Penard') is actually Gower.

On another level, Dr. Völckers has also gone beyond the thematic limits of his catalogue. He has inserted, in his descriptions of several finds, digressions on economic history, political thought, metrology, and typology, which are neither mere resumés of undisputed theories, nor full expositions of new interpretations. The tendency to accept the stray coin as evidence of regular and sustained commercial relations, and the inclination to read a doctrine of hierocratic kingship even into straightforward, secular artifacts of the Carolingians, have been discredited for some time, and it is strange to find them revived here. Some excursuses are sheer romanticizing: an example is the passage in which the author wonders, by turns, whether the Imphy deposit were buried by a Frisian merchant, a Saxon landholder, ‘vielleicht ein begüterter Pöschendorfer’, or a Frankish warrior. The tendency to recreate becomes rather more misleading, however, when Dr. Völckers, having written that all but 49 of the ca. 4,000 coins found at Biebrich were irretrievably lost before being studied, concludes that the preponderance of the deposit was Italian. There is also a pleasant digression in honor of the hypothetical, but omnipresent, Frisian merchant, whom disaster engulfed at Biebrich.

Imagination further had a part in the reconstruction of some deposits, such as that of Gelderland', and in the definite attribution of coins bearing uncertain legends to mint cities. But, in these instances, Dr. Völckers’ suppositions are highly educated hypotheses, and the reviewer regrets only that they are often not clearly identified as plausible instead of certain.

The excursuses on metrology and typology inspire particular reserve, the former, because they are unsubstantiated by data statistically adequate in volume, and further because such coins as were available for his study were so severely damaged as to be unsatisfactory for metrological research. The various classifications of ‘types’ involve variants, rather than types, and they concern particularly the coins found at Imphy, at Sarzana, and on Krinkberg, with only the barest cross-referencing among the three discussions. The reviewer found the discussion of the ‘“neutrale” Gepräge’ of Pippen and his sons, unearthed at Imphy, rather overblown, and the discussion of types in the Krinkberg deposit indeed novel. Dr. Völckers’ comments on Krinkberg typology deal entirely with variants of one type of Charlemagne’s primitive Dorestadt issues, and his purpose is to dispute Näbä’s position that a large proportion of the Krinkberg pieces were nordic imitations of Charlemagne’s type. Dr. Völckers maintains that the coins in question were actually Frisian issues for the Holstein trade, struck illegally, without the approval —indeed, in defiance—of the Carolingian authorities. Historians may well wonder whether Frisia preserved in the reign of Charlemagne sufficient autonomy to undertake such flagrant and, apparently, protracted flaunting of the royal authority; and numismatists must judge the plausibility of the argument that the gross and deformed variants in question were of a ‘type immobilisé’ in a clandestine, but still semi-official, issue. In any case, Dr. Völckers has produced apparent inconsistency and distorted the analysis of the deposit by counting such mintage among Charlemagne’s own issues, and in spreading them upon the plates as official mintage at the same time he argued that Charlemagne would have wished to stamp them out.

Some specialists will perhaps regret that Dr. Völckers chose to arrange his plates according to type, thus scattering the illustrations of any find over several pages, but the concordance between the plates and the two sections of the work concerned with analysis of the deposits has been made possible by a third section of the text which lists mint cities, the finds in which they are represented, and the relevant plates. On balance the plates are very good. Though they do not provoke serious reservations, one would still like to know by what principle some pieces which are apparently available
for study were illustrated by century-old line engravings. Why, for example, are all the pieces of the Bel-Air deposit illustrated by recent photographs except the coins of Le Mans and Dinant, which are represented by drawings published in 1856? Still, Dr. Volckers has earned sincere thanks for illustrating many coins formerly known through line engravings with clear and exact photographs, and for publishing photographs of some coins not hitherto illustrated.

In so highly systemized a work, some inexactitude in detail inevitably occurs. Aside from very infrequent typographical errors, one may mention, for example, the neglect to account for coins nos. 28, 40, and 41 in the general account of Imphy (this defect is remedied in the catalogue of the find), and some erroneous references to Gariel.

Minor lapses like these, and even weightier blemishes such as those we have noted, do not obscure the magnitude or the usefulness of Dr. Volckers' exacting work. The digressions savor of the romance which adorned scholarship in another age. Yet, the catalogue and the plates have brought to light in a highly systematic way, fully consonant with the demands of twentieth-century scholarship, the historical background and the changing pattern in the distribution of coin hoards and illustrates this by the hoards deposited in two decades, c. 865-875 and c. 970-980. In the first there are no hoards in Ireland or the Scottish Isles but there were no fewer than eighteen from eastern and southern England, 'an eloquent commentary on the devastation occasioned by the onslaught of the Danish armies . . .'. In the later period the area round the Irish Sea has yielded twenty hoards while from England east of the Pennines there are only two, and one of these consisted of two coins. Mr. Dolley argues that these hoards 'mirror the contrast between the disorder of the Hiberno-Norse world in the heyday of Maelsechlainn and of Anlaf Quaran and the calm progress of the Anglo-Danish rapprochement which culminated in the reign of Edgar the Peaceful'.

Some readers may conclude that the western parts of Britain were less troubled than England by raiders in the decade 865-875 but, as Mr. Dolley later explains, neither the Irish nor their invaders had or used coin in the ninth century and the absence of hoards certainly does not indicate peaceful conditions. The scarcity of hoards in England in the decade 970-980 may be a tribute to the achievements of King Edgar, but we should not forget that England has produced remarkably few hoards for the whole of Ethelred's reign. The most authoritative list at present available (Anglo-Saxon Coins, ed. R. H. M. Dolley, pp. 163-65) gives only eight hoards for the whole period from 980-1016, and for the last ten years of Ethelred's reign, certainly a time of Danish onslaughts and of turbulence, the only possible hoard is from St. Martin's-le-Grand in London. The rarity of hoards in such troubled times in a country rich in coined silver should encourage us to think again about the significance of hoards. It may be that in Ethelred's time hoarded wealth was generally recovered by its owners and that we should not too readily assume that the Viking raiders spread death and destruction indiscriminately. It is also possible that many of the main numismatic publications on the subject that need to be consulted, but could profitably have been enlarged on the historical side. In the absence of an Irish equivalent of Professor Whitelock's English Historical Documents, students will find A. O. Anderson, Early Sources of Scottish History, A.D. 500-1286, a very useful guide to the bewildering complexities and chronological confusions of the Irish sources. Attention might also have been drawn to A. L. Binnie's imaginative account of The Viking Century in East Yorkshire (East Yorkshire Local History Society, 1963).

At the beginning of his essay Mr. Dolley discusses the neglect to account for coins nos. 28, 40, and 41 in the general account of Imphy (this defect is remedied in the catalogue of the find), and some erroneous references to Gariel.

In this short pamphlet Mr. Dolley surveys the present state of our knowledge about the Viking coinages of Britain. Numismatists will be glad to have this brief statement of his views, some of which will be more fully presented in the forthcoming Sylloge of Hiberno-Norse coins in the British Museum. The emphasis in this pamphlet is, however, less on numismatic minutiae than on the historical background and on the contribution these coins can make to our understanding of Scandinavian Britain. There is no field in which numismatic evidence is more important for the historian and this summary of recent work is most welcome. The plates illustrate 51 coins but the quality of reproduction is in many cases well below the standard that should be set by the British Museum, even in such an inexpensive publication. The suggestions for further reading include all the
heards in the western parts of the British Isles were deposited by men who left home, rather than by men who were fearful of attack. This certainly happened in Scandinavia and it may have happened in Scandinavian Britain.

Mr. Dolley has managed to a remarkable extent to overcome the limitations of space and has packed a great deal of information into this short essay. There is, however, one omission that may be particularly regretted. He himself pointed out in Nordisk Numismatisk Årskrift 1957-58, pp. 81-82, that the York moneyers in the period 924-54 and perhaps later show a remarkable continuity despite the frequent changes of régime. Such continuity, together with the similar survival of Archbishop Wulfstan, suggests that these Scandinavian rulers may have had less independent initiative than is sometimes supposed. They may have been little more than tools in the hands of the Northumbrian aristocracy, of both English and Scandinavian descent, an aristocracy that was trying to preserve its independence from the encroaching power of the English kings to the south.

The British Museum and Mr. Dolley are to be congratulated on the production of this most useful guide and gratitude is also due to the Gulbenkian Foundation for making it possible. In looking forward to future additions to the series a historian may be pardoned for hoping that we shall not have to wait too long for one devoted to the coins of the Norman kings of England. 1966 would have been a good year for its publication.

P. H. S.


The fifth fascicule of the Sylloge is in concept a variation from its predecessors. The coins struck at one mint, now in the collection of the museum of that mint-town, are described and illustrated. Whilst the collection is important in its own way, it is by no means a complete record of the emissions of the mint. A glance at the tables on pp. 34-36 reveals the many gaps even in the representation of moneyers. It should be noted that the volume is very slender; only 464 coins are included, and a goodly percentage of the pages in the total number of 63 are, in fact, completely blank. It does however break new ground by the inclusion for the first time of post-conquest issues. The majority, 406, are from the Anglo-Saxon period, but in addition there are 41 Norman, 12 Plantaganet, 3 Stuart and 9 milled coins.

It is to some extent unfortunate that the author was advised to include only coins 'with an unequivocal Chester mint-signature'. The omission of the early unsigned pennies detracts from the overall view that could, perhaps, have otherwise been obtained. Furthermore, the study of the Chester mint cannot be carried out satisfactorily without consideration of the coins from Leicester, whose mint-signature is at some periods so confusingly similar that a number of pennies cannot be definitely assigned to one mint rather than the other except on grounds hardly more precise than personal predilections. Coins attributed to Leicester are not only omitted from this volume, but references to the problem appear to be confined to a footnote on p. xiii and short notes to nos. 394 and 425.

The main purpose of the Sylloge series is to provide a photographic record for the use of students. The standard of the plates in this book is not adequate. A number of the illustrations are not good enough to be used for die-comparison purposes. Direct photography, the method used here, can give very good results, but the standards of the photography itself and of its collotype reproduction must be of the highest order. It is a pity that the Sylloge Committee allowed the present printing to be published, which can only be a disappointment to Miss Pirie and tend to bring the series into disrepute. One irritating result of direct photography is that in several instances the book has to be twisted about to overcome an incuse effect. On the other hand the variation in shade of colour of the coins is a not unpleasing by-product of direct photography, and is certainly to be preferred to the Copenhagen practice of polishing their coins to a uniform bright silver.

There would have been some advantage in following the example of the Hunterian & Coats Sylloge and giving the readings of each specimen, as this is of considerable help to the student. Sir Frank Stenton wrote 'not even the best of plates will answer to the varieties of light and shade which are sometimes necessary to bring out the exact lettering of a badly worn coin'. His remarks have even greater force when the reproduction is poor. Space, and its effects on costs, must always be an important factor when considering whether or not to transcribe legends. However, a very considerable amount of type could have been saved by curtailment of the notes of provenances. Abbreviations could have been used to great advantage, and it is of little
benefit to know that a particular coin was purchased from one of the London dealers on an unknown date.

Miss Pirie has obviously taken great pains over the preparation of this volume. A few minor errors can be found—e.g. p. 34, Eadgar 'Three-line' type, 'Aelfstan' should be in italics—but they are hardly likely to be of any real hindrance to the use of the book. It is accordingly most unfortunate that against her hard work, which merits commendation, must be debited the serious drawbacks in production. One trusts that she will be better served in the subsequent parts of the Chester Museum Sylloge.

J. D. B.


This is a belated but very welcome publication of a significant hoard which came to light some sixty years ago, and one hastens to add that it was received into the National Museum at Copenhagen several years before Dr. Galster's own advent, so that no blame can attach to him that it is only now made available to the student. The treasure was composed, it would seem, of upwards of 650 coins and a few ornaments, and it is particularly interesting to discover that the container, surely larger than a purse?, appears to have been made of leather. In the English summary the figure for the English coins stands at 192, but included in this total are a number of pieces which students in these islands would have no hesitation in dismissing as Scandinavian. Admittedly a number of these in the main text appear as 'ejfteringninger', but by no means all, e.g. no. 59 which is actually illustrated, and the reviewer would enter a plea that the proper place for imitative pieces of this description is under 'Danmark'. It is, indeed, only when the pieces are studied in this context that they fit into place, and more than once he has remarked that contemporary imitations of English provenance and manufacture are as rare even in English finds as they are of very different fabric.

The latest of the English coins are a number of pieces of the second issue of Harold I—the Hildebrand cut-farthings is generally recognized this side of the North sea as belonging to the joint reign immediately following the death of Cnut. This is to say that the termination of the English element in the hoard falls not later than 1040, and more than one student will feel that this postulates too long an interval between the arrival in Denmark of the latest English coins and Dr. Galster's admittedly tentative suggestion for the occasion of the concealment, the great Wendish invasion of Denmark in the summer of 1043. This is not to say that the interval is impossibly long, and the reviewer particularly welcomes Dr. Galster's recognition of the desirability of our attempting to set hoards against the historical background provided by more conventional sources. Perhaps, though, we should have been told why Dr. Galster rejects the accession date accepted by most English historians where Harthacnut's sole reign in England is concerned. The reviewer for one is satisfied that Harold I did not die until 17 March 1040 and that Harthacnut was not recognized as an effective king in England until June, but, in view of the currency these dates have long enjoyed in the pages of this Journal, he cannot believe that Dr. Galster would lightly restore 1039, though curiously it is the year that figures in Hildebrand.

An unremarked feature of the find is the very small proportion of early coins where England and Ireland are concerned. Both the Irish coins belong to the second issue of Long Cross imitations, the latest grouping normally to be found in a Scandinavian context, and even then notably less common than the preceding issue. Of Æthelræd pennies there are no more than nine, but one wonders why the Derby penny has been selected for illustration. Admittedly it is claimed to read other than the coins in Stockholm, but the illustration at least establishes that the Hildebrand reading of the moneyer's name is correct for this coin as well, and the authority for BLACAMAN is not obvious. Here, too, the student from these islands must make a protest at the continued use of Hildebrand numbers to distinguish legends as opposed to dies. As the sophistication of Anglo-Saxon coinage becomes daily more and more apparent, it is increasingly clear that the Hildebrand number should attach to the coin actually in the trays of the Systematic Collection in Stockholm. In certain circumstances the number may be used of die-duplicates of such a coin, but to employ it of readings is misleading. In this connection it should not be forgotten that recent work has revealed that there are many cases where two coins do have identical readings but are not die-duplicates, and it is hoped that it will be possible in the not too distant future for Mr. Mossop's work on the Lincoln mint to see the light of day and to convince even the most sceptical that there have been some valid discoveries in the field of technique since Hildebrand's pioneer work first brought relative order into what had been virtual chaos.
Dr. Galster's listing of the English element in the hoard gives us in each case the spelling of the moneyer's name, though again there has been an unfortunate tendency to perpetuate Hildebrand's infelicities—cf. forms such as Swileman and Swyrlinc for Spileman and Spurling. In this connection, too, it is impossible to pass over in silence the headings given for each mint. In each case the modern form of the name of the place is given first, though the order is that of the Old English form (e.g. York precedes Gloucester, and Gloucester, Cambridge). There follow in brackets what one must regard as normalizations of the Old English forms, and these seem to be derived in each case from Hildebrand's great work. Generally they seem to essay the inflected case of the locative, but this is not consistent, cf. forms in -caster beside those in -byrig, and certain forms taken only from the coins, it would seem, have a strange flavour, e.g. Bathan where Bathan would have been unexceptional if preceded by the appropriate preposition. One could wish that the heading had consisted solely of the modern forms of the name, and it would have added virtually nothing to the expense of printing if the whole of the reverse legend had been transliterated, and especially in those cases where the coin is noted as 'not in Hildebrand', i.e. in the reign of Cnut the Pointed Helmet pence of York (Hildor), Lincoln (Aslac) and London (Brunman). In the case of the first two of these, the variation is presumably just in the mint-signature, but with the third one could have wished for more information, and more particularly because of the possibility of the coin being Danish.

In the Short Cross issue, Sired at Gloucester and Wulfwine at Huntington are well-attested moneyers, 'new'—where Hildebrand at least is concerned—only for the type, and this is probably true for the fragmentary Quatrefoil coin of Ringu(ill) from Norwich, but it is, as it happens, the Huntington coin which alone qualifies for illustration. Among the Harold I coins there appear to be many newcomers, 'Wulfwine' at Canterbury (Fleur-de-lis), 'Hvenna' at Exeter (Jewel Cross), '(S)tyreol' at York (Jewel Cross), 'Lenoth' at Hereford (Fleur-de-lis), 'Wulfwine' at Huntington (Fleur-de-lis), 'Edwine' at Lewes (Jewel Cross), 'Ælfric', 'Goldsig' and 'Leofrni' at London (all Fleur-de-lis), 'Leofrni' at London (Jewel Cross), and 'Sægr(e)ll(n)' at Nottingham (Fleur-de-lis), and 'Blæcama(n) at Wareham (Jewel Cross). A recent note, however, has argued that 'Hvenna' is in fact Huneman, a known Exeter moneyer though not before recorded for this type and reign, while Blæcama(n) is a well-attested Derby moneyer in this very issue (SNC 1965, p. 154).

For the Canterbury, Yock, Hereford, Huntingdon and two of the three Fleur-de-lis coins of London, moreover, the variation seems only to be in the exact spelling of the moneyer's name, while the 'Leofrni' piece could well be Scandinavian, which leaves us with only the Lewes, Nottingham and 'Ælfric' of London coins as significantly 'new', though in such cases Hildebrand records the moneyer in adjacent types, and, as it happens, not one of these rates illustration, which seems a pity. One English coin has been left to last for special mention—is Godd really a Lincoln moneyer in the Pointed Helmet type of Cnut? Mr. Mossop's survey will, of course, give us a final answer, but it is probably true to say that most members of the 'new school' would have afforded it less cursory treatment. If it is not a mis-struck coin of London where a moneyer with this exceptional spelling of the name is known in this very type, the coin is one which merits discussion, and above all illustration.

It may be thought that this notice has dwelt too much on what seem to the reviewer imperfections in Dr. Galster's notable latest contribution to our knowledge of the Anglo-Saxon series, but it is because the paper as a whole is so valuable that the present writer finally acceded to a repeated invitation to undertake the task. His introduction to numismatics was to prepare for publication a coin-hoard, and after fifteen years he is even more convinced that the publication of treasure trove—and of other finds—is the most important single duty of the official numismatist. Often the work is boring and may seem without point, but how many numismatists appreciate that it is not a decade since a major gold-hoard from S.E. England threw up a nineteenth-century half-sovereign which the Royal Mint records of the year in question mention but which was not previously known from an actual specimen? The publication of this find is eagerly awaited, not just by collectors of the particular series but by mediaevalists working on certain mint-records that appear to possess little less authority but which seem sometimes fundamentally and irreconcilably to conflict with the evidence of the coins themselves.

Features in Dr. Galster's report which may be singled out for special commendation include the careful description—which even includes a photograph—of the find-spot, though non-Danish readers could have wished for a small-scale map-inset to show where Kongsg Plantage lies in relation to the Jutland peninsula as a whole. One is glad, too, to have a full and frank account of the prompt rewarding of the finder, though the authorities at
Dublin and Belfast have no reason to hang their heads in this particular matter which does seem to touch the very roots of public confidence in what frankly seems still to many people a confiscatory invasion of private rights. Equally one is grateful for the very clear description of the silver ornaments found with the coins, and may even wonder whether in these islands numismatists would not profit from greater acquaintance with such material, though admittedly it is only in a very small percentage of our finds that hacksilver is present. Perhaps, too, the reviewer may envy public the easy mastery with which Dr. Galster passes from one national series to another—there is no reason to think that he is any less competent in his publication of the German pieces, while his description of the Danish coins is, as we might expect, not just a labour of love but a model for future work. Finally one should without impertinence comment on the high quality of the printing and general layout of the paper. The half-tone blocks are of exceptional quality, and worthy of the direct photographs. All in all, then, it is not only Danish numismatists who rejoice that in retirement Dr. Galster seems likely to be as productive as he was when these matters were his official concern.

R. H. M. D.

The Earliest Anglo-Irish Coinage by William O'SULLIVAN. Published by the Stationery Office, Dublin, for the National Museum of Ireland, 1964. Pp. viii and 88. 20 line-blocks and 10 half-tone plates. 7s. 6d.

In 1961 the National Museum of Ireland published a reprint of Dr. O'Sullivan's standard guide to the Earliest Irish Coinage originally written in 1949 for the centenary volume of The Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland. That monograph covered the Hiberno-Norse issues and their perverse indigenous successors, the bracteates. In this companion volume Dr. O'Sullivan continues the story down to 1215 and deals with the earliest phases of the Anglo-Irish coinage.

Some years ago the reviewer was moved to bemoan the fact that the medieval Anglo-Irish coinage resembled nothing more nearly than a half-forgotten lumber room which desperately needed a spring-cleaning. Already it seems that a wind of change is blowing the accumulated dust away with gusto and Dr. O'Sullivan's study is particularly welcome since it deals with what is the most intractable and least understood material of the whole series. Its neglect by numismatists has arisen largely because, unlike the later medieval Anglo-Irish coinage, it is not integrated with the familiar contemporary English monetary system and there is very little surviving documentary testimony which can effectively supplement the evidence of the coins themselves; there is for instance no wealth of records like the English Pipe Rolls which have proved invaluable in unravelling Short Cross problems.

Dr. O'Sullivan's book is divided into three sections: a brief historical introduction; a general typological description of the series under discussion coupled with a succinct examination of their background and the problems they pose; and finally, what takes up the bulk of the work, an exhaustive and painstakingly close analysis of some 1,100 coins, all but five of which are in the cabinets of the National Museum.

Dr. O'Sullivan's interpretation of the coins tends to the cautious traditional. Perhaps in some cases a closer dating of types could have been achieved and possibly more could have been made of the hoard evidence, especially that relating to John's 'triangle' coinage, which was siphoned out of Ireland in such large quantities. Dr. O'Sullivan, however, is properly wary of some evidential material. Nevertheless, whereas he is rightly sceptical of the dating of the start of the 'triangle' coinage before 1205 on the grounds of the solitary and ambiguous Close Roll reference 'de denariis Hiberniae' which almost certainly simply refers to treasure from the Irish Exchequer, there is other and far stronger primary evidence to suggest that by 1210, his accepted date, the coinage had been produced for at least five years.

Dr. O'Sullivan suggests that the estoile and crescent on these coins are probably to be associated with the veneration of St. John the Baptist. They are usually regarded as Plantagenet badges but even in England they were not peculiarly Plantagenet and at this time were used all over Europe to fill spaces on seals. It is surprising in view of their marked occurrence on his 'triangle' coins that John's Great Seal does not bear the devices at all, which would seem to leave open the question of a connection with his patron saint.

While he accepts Mr. Derek Allen's attribution to John de Courci of the very rare 'profile' JORANNES halfpennies he does so with some reluctance and his reservation is given point by the latest thought on these coins which would have us revert to Sainthill's original suggestion that they are in reality very early official issues of Prince John as Lord of Ireland. Dr. O'Sullivan accepts much more readily the plausible attribution to de Courci of the Ulster Museum's unique St. Patrick piece
unearthed at Ballykinlar Motte in 1958 and some further comment on this irregular coin would have been welcome and timely.

The most important part of Dr. O'Sullivan's study is that concerned with the 'full face' half-pennies and farthings issued by John as Lord of Ireland. Whereas the other portions of the work are largely synthetical here the writer covers previously uncharted territory and, by a detailed die analysis of over 1,000 coins most of which came from Corofin, has been able to set out an attractive classification which will prove to be an important foundation for further studies. It is interesting to note that an obverse die-link goes far to substantiate the claim of Kilkenny to a mint at this time.

Dr. O'Sullivan's admirable monograph will undoubtedly be a standard handbook on the subject for both students and collectors; it is a major contribution to Anglo-Irish numismatics and the National Museum of Ireland is to be thanked for making possible its publication at so reasonable a price.

D. W. D.


The reviewer will not conceal his scepticism when this project was first mooted. There were already far too many bad books of this genre, some of them parasitical, any merits those of scholars too generous with their advice, others suicidal, their authors quite reputable specialists on a narrow front who had succumbed to the temptation to line their pockets at the price of parading their ignorance of other series. There were exceptions, for example Lars O. Lagerqvist's and Ernst Nathorst-Böös's excellent Mynt och Medaljer, but the auguries were not auspicious, and English publishers had shown themselves among the least critical in the whole of Europe.

It was, therefore, with a very considerable degree of trepidation that the reviewer opened his copy of Mr. Porteous's book, and with mounting surprise that he found the text generally as free from irritants as the illustrations pleasing to the eye. The work gives a sensible, often original, and on the whole well-balanced account of the broad lines of development of Western European coinage from the earliest times until the present, and the pictures, chosen with taste and discernment, give a very good idea of the appearance of the coins of different ages and cultures. It is perhaps not altogether a coincidence that it is the coins of modern times which come out least successfully, though even here there are exceptions. Particularly welcome are what we may call the paranumismatic illustrations, the St. Georges de Boscleville capital, a not so familiar Sienece account-book cover, the delightful miniature in a Boethius manuscript which seems to show a hoarder in the act of burying his store, to name but a few, and it is unfortunate that one of these should constitute one of Mr. Porteous's very few errors of interpretation, Mr. Grierson having since demonstrated conclusively (SNC LXXIII (1965), p. 232) that the 'pinnacle-dies' in the Fogg Museum in fact constitute a boulitirion of normal type.

For an English book of this description this new venture is surprisingly outward looking. More than a genuflection is accorded to the coinage of France, Italy and Germany, and any criticism in this respect must centre on a failure to look westwards and northwards as well as across the English Channel. The Scottish and Irish coinages in a book addressed primarily to the English reader deserves more mention, and could often have illuminated. Another minor criticism might concern the selection of some of the illustrations, for example certain of the Anglo-Saxon and Norman coins where the English National Collection's wealth could have done more justice to an artistic merit lauded in the text but by no means always self-evident from the plates. In general, however, the book succeeds, and Mr. Porteous is entitled to regard it with the same satisfaction as must the publishers; after little more than a year it was reported as 'out of print' by the reviewer's booksellers, and it is to be hoped that it may be reprinted quickly to meet an obvious and justified demand.

The deserved success of a work of this kind reflects the soaring interest in numismatics so characteristic of the last few years. Each month, almost, there seems to be a new numismatic journal in the pages of which figure the advertisements of coin dealers whose names are completely unfamiliar to one who not three years ago was at the then centre of numismatic activity. To some extent this 'boom is healthy, and local societies must be particularly glad when they have no difficulty in ensuring good audiences for speakers of established reputation. What is sobering, though, is to reflect that the learned numismatic societies, and especially our own, have not received anything like their fair share of the benefits. Mr. Porteous would be the first to admit that his book could never have been written had it not been for the numismatic journals...
where appear the fruits of the financially unre-
nominate labours of dozens of students, pro-
fessionals and amateurs alike, who have devoted
their leisure-hours to the reconstruction of the
essential structure of the coinages of the past.
Yet this research is being hampered and obstructed
in various ways by financial stringency which ought
to be quite unnecessary. Fundamentally it is due
to the failure of the learned societies to attract
support, for without a mounting tide of new
members they are unable to meet rising costs and
to challenge authority's apparent apathy to the
subject's plight. Particularly this concerns the
British Numismatic Society and the English and,
though perhaps to a lesser extent, the Scottish
and Irish series. Nor should we fall into the error
of supposing that new members are wanted only
for their subscriptions.

At a time when there is a tenfold multiplication
in the number of collectors there is far from being
any proportionate increase in the total of serious
students. It is no secret that there are Sylloge
fascicles which are held up only because there are
not suitable editors—even if there are some projects
blocked on the plea of a Priori un-English but a
thing of the past—and increasing non-publication
of hoards and of single-finds means that the student
of tomorrow may well reproach this generation
with having sterilized certain areas of research,
including some where, paradoxically, techniques
now being evolved might have proved in their
hands extraordinarily fruitful. Partly, of course,
this dearth of qualified students is occasioned by
the meteoric rise in the prices of common coins, and
Mr. Whitting has spoken more than once of this
danger, but equally one wonders whether those
in established positions are always as helpful to the
would-be student as was the case not all that
number of years ago. Few, too, who justly applauded
Shirley Fox can have realized that even more
pregnant for the future of English numismatics
than his monumental work, with his brother, 011
Edwardian pence was the encouragement he gave
to one particular schoolboy, and the reviewer knows
only too well how that debt is not only generously
acknowledged but has been repaid in the only way
that Shirley Fox would have had it discharged.

It is here, then, it could be argued that a charge
of sterility might well be brought against Mr.
Porteous's book. Such is its easy authority that
the danger is that it may fail to fire new recruits
to what is an arduous discipline, and a specific
criticism must be the omission of a bibliography
(and also of an index). On this score one under-
stands that blame really attaches more to the pub-
lishers, and they have an obvious and to some
extent justified retort that only rigorous uniformity
as between the volumes of the series has made
possible the extremely moderate price. Even so, it
should not have been beyond human ingenuity to
have devised some means of directing the inter-
ested reader to further reading instead of
leaving him with the impression that the subject is
without further depth except perhaps for the
expert as such. There can be little doubt that
more readers of the British Numismatic Journal
would mean more members of our society, and
more members in the long run lead to more students.
More members, too, would mean that the society
could speak out with more authority, and there
seems little doubt that most of the ills of the
English numismatic scene today are directly
attributable to a power-vacuum. More than one
outside observer has remarked on an element of
complacent indolence, abdication of responsibility,
and toleration of abuse which presages ill for tho
future. One may instance the whole question of
non-official strikings, and contrast the position
obtaining at present in these islands with that in
Germany where there has been a vigorous contro-
versy with scholars of impeccable reputation not
afraid to descend into the arena, and not just those
immediately concerned with the series. This, one
feels, is the real problem posed by a book such as
that reviewed here. The intelligent reader is not
sufficiently alerted to the perils, and in his en-
thusiasm for the objects may begin to collect
without proper guidance. Fortunate he is if his
first contact is with a reputable dealer, an interested
museum official or an experienced collector, but
there are advertisements, not only in numismatic
publications, which suggest that when the bubble
bursts there may be many casualties.

The series to which Mr. Porteous has contributed
this volume is entitled Pleasures and Treasures,
other titles ranging from Model Soldiers to French
Porcelain, though the philatelist and the phi-
omenist apparently are not catered for, and certainly
it is a work which itself gives pleasure and will be
treasured by a majority of its possessors. The
quality of the text is matched by the printing and
layout, and especially when the price is borne in
mind. One may express the hope, though, that the
author will deem it a challenge and proceed to
apply himself to a more detailed study of one
chosen field, perhaps the Anglo-Gallic where in the
silver at least so much remains to be done. It is no
credit to the reputation of English scholarship,
nor of French for that matter, that a generation
which can date within a year or two the late thirteenth- and fourteenth-century pennies of Edward I, II and III from their English and Irish mints still cannot be confident to which of these kings belong the three-quarter-face Aquitaine sterlings which used to be given to Edward III until Brooke brought back the date to Edward II. Granted that Coins is a work of quite another character, in it Mr. Porteous has exhibited qualities of diligence, accuracy, judgement and lucidity, not to mention enthusiasm, which suggests that he is precisely the type of student which English numismatics so badly needs.

R. H. M. D.