THE PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR

This year saw a landmark in the Society's history in the completion by Mr. Horace King of sixty years of membership. Elected in March 1909 he has quite the longest record of any member, past or present, and one which is unlikely to be surpassed for very many years. All the presidents the Society has had, including Mr. King himself, have held office during this period. All twenty-one Sanford Saltus medals have been awarded since he joined, one of them to him. He has given the Society unstinted service, and is only now, with the publication of the volume of the Journal currently in the press, relinquishing the office of Editor which he has held for seventeen years. As a token of our appreciation and affection that volume is being dedicated to him.

Mr. King's own studies have been primarily in the field of Anglo-Saxon coinage, which has attracted so much attention in recent years and, indeed, will be the subject of my own Address later this evening. It therefore gave me particular pleasure to present the Sanford Saltus medal earlier in the year to another past president, Mr. Edgar Winstanley, to whom it was awarded by the vote of the members last November for his work on the coinage of Henry VII. This is currently an unfashionable period of English coinage, though in recent years we have had papers covering the Scottish and Irish issues of the time. In putting together his final definitive study of Henry VII coins Mr. Winstanley was, of course, joined by Mr. W. J. W. Potter and it would be wrong of me to overlook the contribution Mr. Potter made.

At the September meeting I had the honour and privilege to present to Mrs. Wilson Peck the special award of the Sanford Saltus medal made posthumously to my distinguished predecessor in office.

The Society's affairs continue to flourish. Membership is again a record, with a total of 451 including those elected tonight. Of these, 323 are ordinary members and 113 are institutions. However, the number of junior members—15—is disappointing and I would appeal to all of you who are in contact with young numismatists to encourage them to apply for membership. We need to develop in them an interest in scholarly research if we are to survive as a live Society.

We have had one loss by death—Miss Carvell, who had only been a member for two years. New members, including those elected tonight, total 45.

This year's programme included a paper by Mr. Porteous on a subject which at first sounds foreign to our field, namely 'Coins of the Netherlands from the 13th to the 17th Century'. In fact the paper compared and contrasted this coinage with that of Great Britain, and demonstrated the importance of avoiding a purely insular approach. Mr. Dolley contributed an important if not entirely dispassionate paper on 'Anglo-Irish Monetary Policies, c. 1150-1625' but much to our disappointment he felt unable to leave Belfast because of the troubles there and the paper was read for him. A major contribution to the study of history and coinage north of the Humber was given by Mr. Pagan, who read to us on 'Ninth Century Northumbrian Numismatic Chronology'. The experiment begun last year was continued with a successful open evening on the eighteenth century, which was followed by the Council Sherry Party. Perhaps next year
Director will be fortunate enough to take part in one of these evenings himself! Our programme was completed with papers by Dr. Kent and by myself, and with short papers on a variety of subjects.

A greater burden than usual has fallen this year on the Editors, and especially Mr. Blunt, because of the need to take a decision on the future printing of the Journal. For various reasons which I need not go into here it was decided, not without some reservations, that the situation had changed sufficiently to warrant our transferring the printing back to Oxford. This will undoubtedly restore the quality of production to which we used to be accustomed, but the improvement will have to be paid for. It is therefore of particular importance that authors should keep their papers as short as they can without loss of clarity, since although the Society's financial position is healthy we cannot afford to increase our expenditure on the Journal and we shall therefore be unable to print quite as much material as hitherto. Alterations in proof are another potential source of economy. Authors should restrain themselves as much as possible, and when it is necessary to make an alteration in the interests of factual accuracy the revised wording should be chosen with a view to minimizing the movement of type.

The efforts of our hard-working Librarian, Robert Thompson, have been rewarded by an appreciable increase in the use of the library which we share with the Royal Numismatic Society. Loans of books to members of the two societies in the year under review numbered 394. This exceeded by fifty the total for the previous year and by more than a hundred the total for 1965–6.

The residue of last year's allocation permitted the purchase of two back numbers of the Numismatic Chronicle, thus completing the Society's set. From this year's allocation the major purchase was the set of plates of the Pembroke collection (1746) from the numismatic library at Hardwick Court started by Archbishop Sharp. In addition to other purchases made from our normal allocation, a generous gift from Mr. Blunt enabled us to acquire three volumes of Numismatic Notes in manuscript by R. T. Samuel (for whom see BNJ xxxii (1963), pp. 171–3). A number of recent publications have also been donated to the library by their authors or publishers. A copy of the Librarian's complete report will be filed with the minutes of this meeting.

This year has seen the publication of an important general work by Mr. John Porteous entitled Coins in History. Beautifully printed and illustrated, it is both readable and scholarly and is a mine of information. Mr. Porteous has gone to great trouble in producing it, for he has travelled widely in search of material and has consulted extensively with other scholars. In this he sets an example to us all.

Other publications of note include H. B. A. Petersson's Anglo-Saxon Currency, a Swedish historian's study in depth of the metrology of the English coinage from the last years of Edgar's reign until the Norman conquest, and reprints of such works as The Silver Token-coinage by R. Dalton and The Nineteenth Century Token Coinage by W. J. Davis.

As part of the Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles a volume was published this year by Mr. Dolley, Mr. Blunt, and others covering the Anglo-Norman pennies in the Royal Coin Cabinet, Stockholm, and the collection of Anglo-Saxon and Norman coins formed for the University of Reading by the late Sir Frank Stenton. The publication of the latter collection was a fitting prelude to a highly successful National Numismatic Congress, held at the University in very pleasant surroundings. This was the first Congress pre-
sided over by Mr. Blunt as President of the B.A.N.S., and I am sure you will join me in wishing him a happy term of office.

This year’s hoards include the astonishing find in Colchester of 14,000 thirteenth-century pennies of the **long cross** issue. The hoard was found in a bucket very close to the spot at which a hoard of **short cross** coins of similar magnitude was discovered in 1902. Miss Archibald will be reading a paper on the new hoard during the next session. Other hoards are listed in an appendix to this report.

In conclusion I should like to thank the officers and members of Council for the support they have continued to give to me during the past year. The work falls most heavily on the Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and Editors, and the Society is fortunate in having dedicated members who are prepared to give their time in this way. My task in guiding the Society is light by comparison, but would be impossible without them.

**APPENDIX**

The English hoards for the twelve months ending on 31 October 1969 are as follows:

- **December 1968** Tintwistle, Cheshire: 11 sovereigns, 34 half-sovereigns, 1835-78. Found under floorboards.
- **February 1969** Colchester, Essex: About 14,000 **long cross** pence, with Scottish and Irish. Found on a building site in a lead container. Deposition c. 1270-5.
- **March 1969** Seend, Wilts.: 38 gold and silver coins, 1662-1719. Found in a trench.
- **March 1969** Cople, Beds.: 35 silver coins, 1572-1680. Found in a ploughed field.
- **April 1969** Newent, Glos.: 44 guineas, 1769-98. Found in a bag at the George Inn.
- **July 1969** Wantage, Berks.: 264 sovereigns and half-sovereigns, 1859-1915. Found in a mustard tin.

In addition, *Coins, Medals and Currency* for 6 September 1969 reported the finding of 21 sword-shaped currency bars during excavations at Danebury Hill Fort, Hants.

To the previous year’s record should be added the ninth-century hoard recovered during the summer and autumn of 1968 in excavations in the Abbey orchard at St. Albans, Herts. Of the 46 silver coins found, 45 were of the **lunette** type (23 Burgred, 19 Alfred, 2 Æthelred I, 1 Archbishop Ceolnoth) and one was a halfpenny of Alfred’s **London monogram** type.

Hoard from other parts of the British Isles are being held over until the next volume of the *Journal*.