

FOREWORD

THIS volume is published by the British Numismatic Society to mark the seventieth birthday of Christopher Evelyn Blunt, Vice-President, past President, Sanford Saltus Medallist, and honorary member of the Society, an editor of *The British Numismatic Journal* from 1936 to 1971, and for forty years the mainstay and inspiration of the study of the British coinage.

The major part of the volume is devoted to the publication of Christopher Blunt's own full-length account of the coinage of Athelstan. This is the first comprehensive survey of the coinage of a tenth-century English king to have been undertaken and it seemed right that the *Journal* should be the vehicle for it and that it should be the main ingredient of this anniversary volume. The volume will thus not merely record the very deep affection and regard in which Christopher Blunt is held by those who know him but be an essential source of information and ideas on the Anglo-Saxon coinage.

Mr. D. F. Allen, C.B., M.A., F.B.A., F.S.A., has kindly contributed the appreciation of Christopher Blunt's contribution to British numismatics that follows this foreword and we should like to express our thanks to him and to Mr. R. H. Thompson, Librarian of the Society, who has compiled the list of publications and papers by Christopher Blunt that is the volume's remaining ingredient.

We should like to record here our own sense of obligation and gratitude to Christopher Blunt. We have known him as teacher, colleague, and friend and we owe him more in each capacity than words can adequately express. We have to recognize that we will not be able to make him a fair return for his knowledge, his counsel, his wisdom, his kindness. Even with the present volume we incur a debt to him for making his study of Athelstan available for it. All that we can do is to thank him very much for what is past and cheerfully to accept the prospect of having to thank him for further kindnesses in the future.

M. D.
J. P.
H. E. P.

