REVIEWS


This is the second volume in the SCBI series where an excursion has been made into the collections of a group of smaller museums and other institutions in Britain. In this instance they are thirty in number, including the Pitt Rivers collection formerly housed at Farnham and now transferred to Salisbury Museum, and they cover the entire West Country. Altogether the collections make an impressive and very useful volume. Just over a thousand coins are listed. Over a quarter are Ancient British and Gaulish. The remainder are Saxon and Norman (up to and including Stephen), with three Hiberno-Norse and Scandinavian coins imitating English types, a small number of modern forgeries, and four early medieval continental coins with English findspots, two of them being from Cuerdale. An eleventh-century French denier in Devizes Museum, the only medieval coin yet recorded from Great Bedwyn (WAM 53 (1949-50), p. 273), was omitted. A high proportion of the coins have recorded findspots. This reflects both the enthusiasm and the success of the county archaeological societies, which lie or lay behind most of the larger museums in this volume, in securing locally found coins for their collections, and also the length of time in which they have been active. Conversely, the statistic shows also that few of the museums—perhaps Taunton and Exeter only—appear to have made determined attempts to build up by purchase collections of locally struck medieval coins. The series of coins of the different Wessex mints do not, sadly, match those of the Bristol and Gloucester museums published separately as SCBI 19. Nor do they reflect the interest shown by the museums at Tamworth, Leicester, Shrewsbury, etc. in securing coins of their own mints, as shown in Antony Gunstone’s previous volume, SCBI Midlands Museums. The volume usefully includes a number of coins from recent and as yet unpublished archaeological excavations, notably Cadbury hill-fort and Cheddar Palace. We must be grateful to their respective excavators for freely allowing the coins to be included here.

As with SCBI Midlands Museums, Antony Gunstone has prefaced this catalogue with a useful background account describing the history of the formation of the various coin collections. Most importantly he has not spared us the ‘warts’. Records of coins stolen or mislaid are given. In this respect it should be noted that WAM 44 (1927-9), pp. 236-9, the other never cited account of the Chute hoard, gives details of the dispersal of the hoard and shows, for example, that originally five of the coins went to Swindon Museum rather than three as inferred from this catalogue. A detailed list is given of coins sold recently by Taunton Museum and reveals that they included many important pieces—let alone a portion of the Wedmore hoard—that one would have liked to have seen photographed and recorded in this volume. This action reflects the inevitably restricted outlook of museums which are essentially concerned with what lies or lay within their own geographical borders. It is much to be regretted that, as is normal museum practice now, opportunity was not given for other museums to purchase them or acquire them by exchange. It is stated also that not all of the Ancient British and Medieval English coins in the Pitt Rivers collection passed to Salisbury Museum. To the note that the Saxon coins there were photographed by C. E. Blunt, it could be added that the Ancient British ones were photographed by Derek Allen for the card index of these coins maintained at the Institute of Archaeology at Oxford. The stater of Cunobelin, lot 42 in the Munzen und Medaillen sale of 4 December 1973, from the Pitt Rivers collection (Britannia, vi (1975), p. 13), reflects the quality of the missing part of the collection.

Of the Ancient British coins there are few which do not have recorded findspots. Thus the greater number are those struck by the Durotriges (British B and Mack 317-69), and by the Dobunni. In some cases their publication here corrects or qualifies entries in Derek Allen’s catalogue of Ancient British coins in The Origins of Coinage in Britain: A Re-appraisal, for example, nos. 189 and 190, two further examples of the rare and attractive Class A Dobunnic silver coins. Nos. 33b–44, the group of quarter-staters of type Mack 319, to be read in conjunction with Derek Allen’s diagrammatic breakdown of the type in Origins, p. 112, is of interest as relatively few coins of this interesting type tend to be illustrated in numismatic literature.

It would have been better in the reviewer’s mind not to have listed the long series of Durotrigi-
struck staters, types Mack 317 and 318, merely in the alphabetical order of museums with coins of the type, but in alphabetical order of findspot (under county and parish or site), and then subdivided according to the classification proposed by Derek Allen in *Hod Hill*, and utilized by Michael Mackeson in his more recent study of Durotrigian coinage. In just the same way, Dobunnic coins are invariably listed according to the scheme advanced in *Bredon: A Belgic Oppidum*. This would have brought together in this catalogue coins with the same findspot but now in different museum collections, and would enable the composition of groups of coins from the same site, and particularly the important hoard from Cotley Farm (= Chardstock, Axminster), to be seen and understood more clearly. It would also have made it more easy to use the volume in conjunction with Derek Allen’s list in *The Origins of Coinage in Britain: A Re-Appraisal*. In many cases it is usefully stated when an Ancient British coin in the catalogue is included in this list or, with the Durotrigian staters, in the lists published by Michael Mackeson. But it would have been better if this had been systematic, and an entry such as ‘Origins, —’ added to coins which do not appear there, as indeed is the case with many of the provenanced coins.

The cast bronze Durotrigian staters usefully complement those published in *SCBI The Mack Collection* and *SCBI Fitzwilliam I*. The series of Dobunnic coins is smaller but of importance in including the three Class A silver coins and a parcel of coins from the Nunney hoard, which although small is important in that it is non-selective. Where is the stater of Catti from the Nunney hoard which Evans thought was in Taunton Museum (*Num. Chron.* (1861), p. 4)? One wonders whether this second stater of Catti from the hoard does indeed exist. The remaining Ancient British coins, apart from those without recorded findspots or with findspots outside the south-west, consist of coins struck outside this area but which circulated within and were lost there either in late Iron Age or early Roman times. They include a few Potin coins and a number of not satisfactorily provenanced coins of the Iceni. While coins of the Catuvelauni are accepted as only occurring very infrequently in the south-west, it is an important result of this volume that no further examples have been brought to light in the museum collections. The only Catuvelaunian coins included are a *British La* stater from Maiden Castle and a bronze of Cunobelin from Roman Cirencester. In addition there are no coins of the Atrebates. In compensation, we find in the volume a high proportion of coins from north-west Gaul. The number of continental coins would have been still higher had the Paul, Penzance, hoard in Truro Museum been included. The inference is clearly that in the later Iron Age the economic and social links of the south-west lay much more with the Continent than with the developed Belgic kingdoms in Britain, and that travel by sea was of greater importance than hypothetical overland traffic along ridgeway routes.

The Anglo-Saxon and Norman coins include, as stated above, an expected but not impressive series of coins from local mints in Wessex. There are a number of coins from hoards—Tywardreath (1953), Shaftesbury (c. 1940), ‘Bath’ and Latton (c. 1882), with impressive and interesting parcels from the City hoard (1872) and from Cuerdale. The publication of the coins from the Wedmore hoard (1853), together with the additional information given of the composition of the find, almost alone justifies the appearance of the volume. There are also a number of individual coins with recorded findspots in the south-west. No. 536, the London mint penny of Æthelred II found at Stonehenge, is noteworthy in that another Saxon coin, not included in this volume, was found at Silbury Hill. In view of the infrequency of the discovery of Saxon coins, this may be more than coincidence: do these coins perhaps provide evidence for the use of, or the visiting of, these prehistoric monuments in later Saxon times?

As with *SCBI Midlands Museums*, the publication of this volume has brought to general notice unknown or little-known coins, which one might perhaps not have expected to find in museums in that area. Again this shows the general usefulness of both the volume and the series. The most obvious coin of this type is no. 871, a previously unpublished penny of Henry of Anjou. Nos. 381 and 669 should also be noted, while the irregular style of no. 432, a penny of Edward the Martyr signed by the moneyer Wigferth, at London, is compared with a BMC iv penny of Eadgar, also by this moneyer and again of anomalous style. The implications of this are potentially of considerable interest.

It is unfortunate, although perhaps inevitable with long-established provincial museums which have rarely been adequately and professionally staffed throughout their histories, that in many cases record of the provenances of the coins have been lost. The five ‘sceattas’ in Dorchester Museum are a tantalizing case in point, while the small group of coins in Taunton Museum of Æthelred I and early Alfred seem to belong together but are also sadly without provenance. In a few cases the reviewer has been able to determine or expand the
provenances of a few of the Wiltshire coins in the volume from local records:

423 H(oratio) N(elson) Goddard lived at Clyffe Pypard. The coin was exhibited at Swindon in 1873 (WAM 14, p. 155) and is probably a local find from the Swindon–Clyffe Pypard area.

668 was presented in 1916 by the Leicester businessman, Hugh Goodacre, regarding whom see SCBI Midlands Museums, p. xvi, and part of whose own collection of coins is in Leicester Museum.

688 was acquired in 1926 in conjunction with the now missing William I Paxs type penny of Malmesbury mentioned on p. xx, presumably from a London dealer.

744 The donor was the Revd. Charles Soames, Rector of Mildenhall, Wilts. (see BNJ xliv (1975), p. 2 and n. 4). The coin may be that found at Oxford in 1891 (WAM 26, p. 416).

787 was presented by John Yonge Akerman to Devizes Museum in 1856.

It is very much to be hoped that the publication of this volume will stimulate research into the records of other museums or county societies to bring to light further information on other unprovenanced coins in this book.

All in all the volume is an important publication of practical benefit to the numismatist, local historian, archaeologist, and museologist alike. Bearing in mind the scattered nature of the museum collections, it has been well compiled and is published at what is a reasonable price nowadays for a reference book. While some of the photographs are poor and an unfortunate number of coins are published without a photograph, they are in a minority and do not mar the pleasure of seeing the volume in print.

P. H. R.


If future volumes of Winchester Studies maintain the standards of production and scholarship set by Winchester in the Early Middle Ages, then students of the medieval city will have at their disposal a remarkable array of evidence accompanied by balanced authoritative commentary of the highest quality. Among the most refreshing features of this series is the accumulation of historical evidence of every type be it archaeological, documentary, or numismatic. The way in which these different elements illuminate one another must inspire all specialists to keep abreast of work in related fields, while the skill with which this information is blended into a readable whole is a model for us all.

This first volume is principally a new edition and discussion of the Winton Domesday. For the uninitiated this name may be misleading, for the great survey of England known as Domesday Book does not include Winchester. The Winton Domesday is in fact two twelfth-century surveys. Survey I is dated to c. 1110; it covers the terræ regis within the borough, though baronial lands are mentioned when they are still burdened with royal customs. Though belonging to the early twelfth century, Survey I also contains within it the substance of an earlier survey of the holders of lands in the time of Edward the Confessor (TRE). In this respect Survey I conforms to the Domesday Book formula which asked questions about lands as they were at the time of writing (modo) and as they had been TRE. Numismatists may derive some satisfaction from the fact that the dating of the two elements of Survey I to c. 1057 and c. 1110 is fixed by the names of the moneyers mentioned in the surveys. Survey II was prepared in 1148 and was carried out by the bishop, Henry of Blois, perhaps as a result of the damage sustained by the city in the civil war. Thus we have a detailed record of the City of Winchester as it was c. 1057, c. 1110, and in 1148.

This new edition of the two surveys was prepared by Professor Frank Barlow, and there are further sections on the binding and palaeography by experts in these fields. Many numismatists may be more familiar with the work of Olof von Feilitzen, who provides a fascinating section on personal and bynames. Apart from the monetarii identified as such (Alestanus, Alwardus filius Etardii, Alwinus, Aitardessone, Andrebodus, Odo, Wimundus, Sanson, Siwardus, and Godwinus), the name of William Caddus, the famous money lender stands out.

The central commentary, Winchester in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, is by Martin Biddle and D. J. Keene, and it is to their section on the Mint (pp. 396-421) that many numismatists will turn first. An impressive band of numismatic scholars have advised Biddle and Keene on this piece, which is not a discussion of site finds from Winchester, nor an analysis of the product of the Winchester mint. Those seeking Winchester find data have only to turn to this journal (BNJ xlvii (1977), pp. 135–8), while those looking for a study of the Winchester coins must await Mrs. Yvonne Harvey's work on this topic which is to be Winchester Studies 8. However, in the present Winchester Studies I, after a brief outline of the Winchester coinage, we are treated to an analysis
of the moneyers listed in the surveys, compared with those known from the coins. This analysis not only provides a chronological framework for the surveys, but also gives us a detailed picture of the moneyers, and of the mint. Indeed it is clear that in eleventh- and twelfth-century Winchester it may be misleading to speak of a single mint. Moneyers each held a number of properties, and it seems likely that they may have conducted the exchange functions of their work at home, that is to say in residential property, while the metal work took place in workshops (monete) which may have contained up to six forges each. This arrangement of scattered workshops held or rented by individual moneyers was brought to an end by the Short Cross reorganization of 1180 which set up a single building for the whole operation. Before this date the moneyers of Winchester were expressly forbidden to work together in a single building.

Nevertheless, even when moneyers’ properties were scattered in the city, the surveys do indicate a concentration of moneyers’ interests in certain areas, especially the High Street. Moreover, the character of these areas, once established, was retained to a remarkable degree. Thus the five moneyers’ workshops situated in the High Street which were destroyed c. 1066 to make more room for the royal palace were not forgotten. When the palace was destroyed in 1141 moneyers reoccupied the site, and when the mint for the Short Cross coinage was set up, exactly the same area was chosen.

This physical continuity of place was mirrored by a continuity of personnel; there are many indications that wherever possible moneying was kept in the family (e.g. the families of Chepingus, Odo, and Saiet). This is not surprising since the moneyers formed a group which in social and economic terms was second only to the royal officials. They had extensive interests in urban properties, and involvement in trade. Moneyers in Calpestret seem to have been linked with the goldsmiths. Walter Chibus who held moneyers’ forges was known as a usurer. Moneyers were wealthy men, and their families exercised influence and wealth in the city through into the thirteenth century.

Apart from this picture of the moneyers and their mints there are also contributions to numismatic problems as yet unresolved. Does the presence in Winchester of Odo monetarius, who is very probably Odo the hereditary die-cutter, revive the possibility of an official connection between Winchester and die-cutting which was raised by the discovery of a lead trial piece of Edward the Confessor (BNJ xxvii (1952–4), pp. 175–8)? The mention of Sanson as a moneyer in the 1148 Survey is interesting since he is not known as a Winchester moneyer. Could this be the man who struck coins for Stephen, with an uncertain mint-signature disputed between Southampton and Canterbury?

There is plenty for the numismatist in this volume. Anyone who can afford £32 should not hesitate on the ground that only a small part of the book is concerned with the mint. As this study shows moneyers were by no means exclusively concerned with the coinage; neither should numismatists be! Those who cannot afford £32 may take comfort from the fact that this volume can be found on the shelves of the BNS library.

N. J. M.

The Pobjoy Encyclopaedia of Isle of Man Coins and Tokens. By JAMES A. MACKAY. Sutton (Surrey), 1977: 78 pp. including 8 colour plates and numerous half-tones and line-engravings in text. £3.50.

The purely historical portions of this slim but handsome volume can only be described as unsatisfactory. It just is not good enough for an author to give an air of scholarship to two-thirds of his book by acknowledging generously assistance from named scholars of repute, in this case Mr. A. M. Cubbon, O.B.E., and Dr. L. S. Garrad, who appear to have been given no opportunity of correcting the misuse made of such information as they may in fact have supplied. A few examples of these errors may not be amiss. Any historical personage underlying Manannan (p. 2, l. 6) cannot be supposed to have lived anything like as late as the fifth century of the Christian era, and there is no evidence that the historic Patrick of the Confessio ever came to the island (ibid., l. 8). Few scholars, too, would care to insist on the historicity of all the Scottish, Welsh, and English ‘conquests’ in the early Christian period (ibid., l. 11–15), while Harold Fairhair’s personal intervention (ibid., l. 16) is now recognized as a projection backwards of Norwegian ambitions of the early twelfth century. ‘Jarl Orry’ (ibid., l. 19) is nowhere identified, and a later reference to ‘Orrys or Kings’ (ibid., l. 30 and 31) does suggest that our author is under the impression that this personal name (= Godred or Guthred) is a title. For most historians, too, Man ‘emerges from the mists of legend’ not in 1079 (ibid., l. 26) but in the 960s and 970s with the succession of Magnus (‘Macus’) Haraldsson and of his brother Godred (‘King Orry’). The father of Godred Crovan was indeed Harold the Black (ibid., l. 27), but whether he hailed from Iceland is a matter of debate, with Islay seeming a more plausible alternative. Enough has been
said, however, to suggest that pp. 1–4 of this work should be used with the greatest caution.

The second chapter (pp. 5–10) is only less tendentious. It was a good idea to bring together notes on the various types of the different Anglo-Manx coinages down the centuries, but really far too much space is given over (pp. 5 and 6) to the alleged Sicilian inspiration of the so-called triskeles—Sir Anthony Wagner’s seminal paper and Mr. G. V. C. Young’s more recent researches alike are ignored—and it is surprising to find the Kirk Maughold cross given with such confidence to ‘the late thirteenth century’. Historians, too, will be unhappy with the dating and even the identification (p. 7) of Peel’s patron saint, while ‘armoured gunwhales and twin banks of oarsmen’ (ibid.) must seem an odd description of the disposition of the shields and rowers on ‘a typical Norse ship’. The proliferation of the horns on a loaughyn ram (p. 9) seems in fact to be the result of nineteenth-century cross-breeding to improve the stock, and it is the colour and the texture of the fleece that caught the eye of the earliest modern observers of the breed and could be considered the link with the Viking Age.

Chapter III (pp. 11–26) lists and illustrates the principal varieties of the Anglo-Manx coinage struck and issued over the last three centuries. The Hiberno-Manx series is no more than touched upon—even though certainly struck on the island—and bibliographical omissions for the more modern series include several notes in The Manxman which would have enabled one or two significant omissions to be made good. We are not told, for instance, when fourteen pence began to be reckoned to the shilling, and it is the colour and the texture of the fleece that caught the eye of the earliest modern observers of the breed and could be considered the link with the Viking Age.

Chapter IV (pp. 27–38) listing tokens and certain other paranumismatica is more satisfactory, even if the relative rarity of varieties such as nos. 132 and 132a is not indicated, nor the circumstance that 132b appears to be unique (pp. 32–3). One would welcome, too, more positive evidence that no. 135 (p. 34) has anything to do with the internment camp at Knockaloe. Unfortunately is the use of the term ‘jeton’ on the same page to describe a gaming-counter, and the same infelicity recurs in the glossary which occupies pp. 68 and 69. All these are errors that could so easily have been avoided if only the author had submitted his text to a competent numismatist—and accepted the corrections. With Chapter V (pp. 39–49), on the other hand, we are on firmer ground. The Manx officials consulted are those who actually negotiated the contracts with the Royal Mint at London and Llantrisant (coins dated 1965, 1970, and 1971), the Royal Canadian Mint at Ottawa (coins dated 1972), and most recently the Pobjoy mint at Sutton (coins dated 1972–6). Confidentiality obviously precludes
the revelation of the terms on which these different
contracts were negotiated, and so an opportunity
has been lost finally of nailing once and for all the
rumour that one was on terms diverging appreciably
from Western European norms, but it is hard to see
why an author with access to the official figures
should have been prevented from giving the exact
figures in all cases for non-proof strikings in the
precious metals (e.g. nos. 211, 217, 223, 226, etc.).
Some may find curious, too, the categorical state-
ment that the dies for the 1974 gold were defaced
by the Government Treasurer in person (p. 52),
even if it should be understandable that reassurance
is eagerly sought by collectors of what is un-
doubtedly a highly speculative issue. Particularly
valuable in this connection is the detailed explana-
tion in Appendix I (pp. 51-2) of the die-letters ('die-
marks') on the gold in question whatever reserva-
tions one may have concerning the description of
the epigraphy as Hiberno-Norse. It is for these
details that the book must find a place on the shelves
of every student and collector of the modern Anglo-
Manx series.

Pp. 53–60 are given over to sixteen half-page
colour illustrations explaining many of the pro-
cesses of the Pobjoy Mint. Taken in conjunction
with the text on pp. 64–6 they provide a picture of
modern techniques of coin-production that is at
once comprehensive and lucid, and in themselves
they earn for the book a wider readership than just
the Manx collecting fraternity could hope to sustain.

No less valuable is the first section of Appendix II
(pp. 61–4) which sketches the history of the Pobjoy
Mint, and tells how family traditions of engineering
and manufacturing jewelling combined and diversi-
fied in the years following the Second World War,
and in the 1960s broke through successively into the
highly competitive fields of commemorative medals
and of coinage proper. We are left hungry for more,
and it is indeed to be hoped that it may be possible
one day for Mr. Mackay to expand these pages into
a full-scale history of the Pobjoy Mint, and, with
access to the company records, draw up a complete
catalogue of all its products.

All in all, then, this is a ‘curate’s egg’ of a book.
The production is excellent—apart from the binding
in at the back of three pages of newspaper-type
advertising—and much can be learned from it. The
reviewer for one has read it with profit and pleasure
if with occasional dismay, and the quality of what
one may perhaps term the ‘yolk’ is such that one is
doubly sorry that so much of the ‘white’ is frankly
addled. Awaited is a new edition which will pick up
the positive mistakes, but retain the well-conceived
format and the freshness of approach. As it is, an
admittedly academic reviewer is left muttering to
himself—and not for the first time in his career—
‘Do popular books have to be inaccurate?’, and
wondering whether perhaps the new work is not
further evidence of an insular disease.

M. D.