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THE NEW FORMAT

In my Presidential Address delivered to the Anniversary Meeting in November 1981, and again in my letter sent to all Members in January 1982, it was announced that Council was actively considering the production methods used to produce our annual Journal. This present volume is the result of our deliberations.

The production format of the British Numismatic Journal has been altered from time to time over the years since its inception. The last major change in style was made with and from volume 31, nearly twenty years ago. The format set then has served us well, and is cost effective for quality printing. In recent years, however, the ravages of inflation have meant that production and distribution costs have increased much faster than the Society's income, and despite a number of economies in our methods, the inevitable result has been a significant reduction in the number of pages we could afford to print each year.

Late in 1981 our Editor, Dr. Challis, reported that he had in hand contributions of high quality which would require considerably more pages than the number we had budgetted for. He suggested that instead of holding some over until volume 52, Council should actively re-examine ways in which we could print more words for the same (or less) money, particularly in the light of very recent advances in technology to which he drew our attention. Council did examine all aspects of production. Comparatively minor savings could have been made on paper quality and on binding, but it was decided that these should be maintained for their overall benefit to Members. Sufficient savings could be obtained if the setting of the text was effected on a sophisticated electronic typewriter.

This has been done. The results are perhaps not so pleasing to the eye as those we have been accustomed to receive from the high quality printers used by us in the past, but it was widely felt that this was a comparatively small sacrifice to pay for the benefit of being able to print more articles. To obtain full benefit from the change it is necessary to print approximately the same number of words to the page as in the recent past. To maintain our traditional page size would have necessitated a type size smaller than is convenient to many members, and it was finally decided that ease of reading should have priority. Volume 51 therefore starts a new series of larger format.

The Society is now directly supervising the typing of the text. In these circumstances it was decided that Dr. Challis, who retains full literary editorship, would remain as the Society's sole Editor, but the production details would be overseen by an Assistant, or Production, Editor.

J.D. Brand
President