ON 14 August 1701 Charles Gerard, Earl of Macclesfield, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from King William III of England, arrived at the court of Hannover to present the Electress Sophia with a copy of the Act of Succession, which declared that the succession to the English crown after the future Queen Anne was to be vested in the Electress and her descendants. Among those who accompanied Lord Macclesfield was a man in his mid twenties, Andrew Fountaine, who over the next quarter of a century was to form one of the greatest of European coin collections. Although he sold his collection before the end of the 1720s, and no list of the coins, no bills for his purchases and very little other contemporary documentation survives, what follows is an attempt to put together the evidence for Fountaine’s numismatic career.1

He was the son of a London barrister and member of parliament, who possessed a small landed estate in the county of Norfolk.2 He was born in 1676, and was educated first as a King’s Scholar at Eton College, and then, from October 1693 onwards, at Christ Church, the wealthiest and most celebrated of the colleges of the University of Oxford. His tutor at Christ Church was Dr Edward Wells, later also the tutor of the numismatist Browne Willis.3 While at Christ Church, where he remained in residence after taking his B.A. degree in February 1697, he caught the eye of its then head, Henry Aldrich, Dean of Christ Church from 1689 to 1714, who selected him first as a ‘Canoneer Student’ and subsequently, as ‘the best classical scholar in the University’ to deliver a Latin oration when William III visited Oxford in 1695.4 It seems to have been a combination of this and of his father’s political connections that led to his being knighted by the king at Hampton Court Palace on 30 December 1699, an unusual mark of distinction for a young man who had yet to embark on a career and whose family possessed only modest landed or invested wealth. It is not possible to say more about his early life, but it is relevant that his first patron, Dean Aldrich, was a gifted musician, a keen amateur architect, and a collector of illustrated books, engravings and drawings.5 For Aldrich’s influence on

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1 The present paper was delivered to a symposium on numismatic literature at the Herzog August Bibliothek at Wolfenbüttel, Germany, in the autumn of 1992. In the outline of Sir Andrew Fountaine’s career and continental travels given here I have greatly benefited from Andrew W. Moore, Norfolk & the grand tour . . . eighteenth century travellers abroad and their souvenirs, Norfolk Museums Service, 1985, 168pp (where Fountaine and his travels are discussed on pp. 26–31, and thirty paintings and other works of art from his collections are catalogued on pp. 93–113), and from Sir Brinsley Ford, ‘Sir Andrew Fountaine, one of the keenest virtuosi of his age’, Apollo, November 1985, pp. 352–63. The chronology of Fountaine’s travels in 1701–3 and 1714–16 set out here is based directly on their researches.

2 Andrew Fountaine (c. 1637–1707), Sir Andrew’s father, had sat in the House of Commons as member for Newton (Lancashire), a pocket borough controlled by his wife’s brother-in-law, from 1679 to 1685. See the entry on him by Irene Cassidy in B.D. Henning, The History of Parliament, The House of Commons 1660–1690, p. 350.

3 Information kindly supplied by Dr Mark Curthoys, archivist, Christ Church, Oxford. The statement in the Dictionary of National Biography that his tutor was Henry Aldrich (see below) is incorrect.

4 According to a memorandum on Sir Andrew Fountaine drawn up after Fountaine’s death by a Mr Benjamin Ibot, who had known him well in his later years. It survives in a nineteenth century transcript still in the possession of the Fountaine family, and was reproduced by (Sir) J.C. Robinson in a letter printed in The Times, 18 April 1884, soon afterwards reprinted for issue with priced copies of the catalogue of the Christie’s sale of 16–19 June 1884 at which the family collection of maiolica, and a small residual collection of coins and medals, was dispersed.

Fountaine we have indeed specific evidence that in November 1704 Fountaine was still regarded by John Moore, Bishop of Ely, as 'a bigoted creature of the Dean of Christ Church'.

Sir Andrew's arrival in Hannover in August 1701 was for him only the first event in a Grand Tour through Germany and Italy which was to last until the late spring of 1703. His next point of call after Hannover was Berlin, which he seems to have reached by late September or early October, and where he was fortunate enough to make friends with the great statesman and scientist Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz. From Berlin he went by way of Wittenberg to Leipzig, where he was on 24 October, and then to Munich, which he had reached by 25 November. On the way between Leipzig and Munich he spent three days at Arnstadt, being shown by the Swiss Protestant scholar Andreas Morell the coin collection which Morell had been in charge of since 1694 for the Sondershausen line of the counts of Schwarzburg. This is important because it is the first dated evidence that we have for Fountaine taking an interest in coins, and Fountaine himself records the impact made on him by the scale and range of the collection at Arnstadt; but he must surely have been keen on numismatics already, for no absolute beginner would spend three days working through a collection, and there is a contemporary statement that he came from England with 'so rich a stock of knowledge & experience in medals, statues, carvings & designing' that he could find 'little to learn in countries, which boast themselves to be the most famous schools of these sciences'. His next stop was Vienna, where he was on 10 December, meeting the Italian-born antiquary Luigi Ferdinando, Conte Marsigli, and suggesting to him that Morell should be sent for by the Emperor to arrange the Imperial coin collection 'that lies at present in very great confusion'.

He was still at Vienna on 14 January 1702, but by 29 January he was in Salzburg and he shortly afterwards crossed into Italy, going by way of Venice to Padua, where he was on 20 March, and to Rome, which he had reached by some date in April. He reported to Leibnitz in a letter written from Rome on 1 June that he found his time fully occupied by the antiquities and other curiosities of the city, and that he had had frequent conversations with the numismatist Cardinal Enrico Noris and with the archaeologist Francesco Bianchini; but he cannot have stayed in Rome long after that, for he then spent some time in Florence and was already back north of the Alps, in Augsburg, on 27 September. In November 1705 he was to tell an English numismatic friend, William Nicolson, Bishop of Carlisle, that when at Padua...

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7 This is shown by correspondence between Fountaine and Leibnitz printed in State papers and correspondence illustrative of the social and political state of Europe from the Revolution to the accession of the House of Hanover, edited by J.M. Kemble (London, John W. Parker & Son, 1857). Kemble prints ten letters from Fountaine to Leibnitz carrying dates between 18 Oct 1701 and 29 Jan 1703/4, and two letters from Leibnitz to Fountaine, one dated 12 Nov 1701, and the other probably of February 1704.

8 Sir A. Fountaine, Numismata Anglo-Saxonica et Anglo-Danica brevis erat illustrata (1705), p. 166. A letter from Morell to Fountaine dating from early in 1702 survives in the Fountaine family archives (Moore, p. 94). In addition, Morell chose Fountaine as the person to whom to address a 9-page printed letter, seemingly published towards the end of 1702 under the title Lettre écrite à Monsieur le Chevalier Fountaine par André Morel pour servir de réponse à un extrait de lettre que le Journal de Paris dit avoir été écrite audir Morel par M. Galland, Antiquaire de Monsieur Foucault, Intendant du Roy en Normandie. I have here to record that having myself failed to trace a copy of this rare printed item, I applied for help to Dr Christian Dekeyser who was then about to visit the former ducal collection at Gotha, into which the coins from Arnstadt were integrated later in the eighteenth century, and he most kindly both located the former ducal copy of Morell's publication in the Forschungs- und Landesbibliothek Gotha and sent me a photocopy of it.

9 Moore, p. 28, quoting a statement to this effect enclosed in a letter of late 1702 to Fountaine's mother.

10 Fountaine to Leibnitz, 14 Jan 1702 (Kemble, ed., p. 260, letter 114).

11 Ford, p. 352. Fountaine's presence in Padua on 20 March 1702 is documented by his signing the matriculation book of the University of Padua on that day (H.F. Brown, Inglesi e Scolares all' Universita di Padova dall' anno 1618 sino al 1765 (1921), p. 184), and he was in Rome by 5 April when he visited the Duke of Shrewsbury there (HMC Buccleuch II, pt. ii, 1903).

12 Fountaine to Leibnitz, 1 June 1702 (Kemble, ed., p. 273, letter 125).

13 Moore, p. 28, on the authority of a letter of that date from Fountaine at Augsburg to Robert Nelson.
he had purchased 'the whole collection' of the numismatist Charles Patin,\textsuperscript{14} and there is a later reference to his having made 'large acquisitions of coins' on this visit to Italy;\textsuperscript{15} and in a farewell letter that he wrote to Leibnitz on 16 March 1703, when he was in Hanoverian territory at Zell and about to take ship home to England, he explicitly foresaw a future for himself 'admidst his medals'.\textsuperscript{16} The Electress Sophia sweetened his departure by presenting him with the large gold medal that she had had struck to mark her nomination as successor in line to the English throne, which he said that he would 'always keep as the great treasure I have'.\textsuperscript{17} He had already written warmly about the courts of Hannover and Berlin in an earlier letter to Leibnitz in which he had remarked that 'Hannover and Berlin have left such impressions upon me, that I can't relish fine buildings without good inhabitants, and tis that, that makes me prefer the Electrice's apartment at Herrnhausen to that they call the Emperours at Munick, and the little hall at Lusenbourg, to the famous one at Ausbourg. In short, I don't believe that I shall like my native England, unless I find a Court from Hannover there'.\textsuperscript{18}

It was thus as a supporter of the Hanoverian succession that Fountaine returned to England, and it may seem surprising that by October 1703 it was the elderly Tory and Jacobite scholar George Hickes who recruited him to write a treatise on the Anglo-Saxon coinage as part of Hickes's celebrated Thesaurus of materials for Anglo-Saxon literature and history.\textsuperscript{19} But their personal collaboration seems to have been tenuous, and it is likely that Fountaine became involved essentially because he had time on its hands and was keen on coins. Another factor that may have played its part was that Fountaine was now a protege of the great connoisseur and collector Thomas Herbert, 8th Earl of Pembroke, who had purchased a major portion of the famous collection of Greek and Roman sculptures known as the Arundel marbles and had already started to put together a coin collection, and Pembroke may have pushed Fountaine towards authorship.\textsuperscript{20} Lord Pembroke's personal papers do not survive, but he and Fountaine must have come to know each other before Fountaine's Grand Tour, for Fountaine had originally intended to go on south from Rome in 1702 to meet Pembroke at Naples.\textsuperscript{21} This is not the occasion to discuss Fountaine's treatise itself — its plates remain very helpful, but its text is of no great value — and it is enough to say that printing of it was complete, or effectively complete, before the end of 1704.\textsuperscript{22}

We hear of Fountaine next from the Oxford antiquary Thomas Hearne, who noted on 7 September 1705 that he had been told that 'My Lord Pembroke is already gone into Holland to expostulate with the States, & that Sir Andrew Fountaine is gone along with him'.\textsuperscript{23} He noted

\textsuperscript{14} C. Jones and G. Holmes (eds), \textit{op.cit.}, pp. 312–13.
\textsuperscript{15} It is so stated in the memorandum by Benjamin Ibbot cited above.
\textsuperscript{16} Fountaine to Leibnitz, 16 Mar 1703 (Kemble, ed., p. 315, letter 133).
\textsuperscript{17} Fountaine to Leibnitz, ibid.
\textsuperscript{18} Fountaine to Leibnitz, 25 Nov 1701 (Kemble, ed., p. 253, letter 107).
\textsuperscript{19} Hicks wrote on 30 October 1703 to the Yorkshire antiquary Ralph Thoresby asking Thoresby on his and Fountaine's behalf to lend his collection of Anglo-Saxon coins so that they could be published in the intended volume (\textit{Letters of eminent men, addressed to Ralph Thoresby, F.R.S., now first published from the originals} (London, 1832), vol. ii, pp. 36–7). It should be noted that although Ralph Thoresby was himself a keen collector of coins, the most significant Anglo-Saxon coins in the collection seem already to have been in his father's possession in 1678, when details of some of them were communicated by Dr Nathaniel Johnston to the Oxford scholar Obadiah Walker for publication in Walker's edition of Sir John Spelman's life of King Alfred.
\textsuperscript{20} There is no adequate modern study of Thomas Herbert, 8th Earl of Pembroke (c. 1656–1733) as a collector and patron of antiquarian studies. There is no surviving evidence for activity by him as a coin collector before 1700, and it may be that it was Fountaine who persuaded him to start collecting coins, but the loss of Pembroke's own papers makes certainty on this point difficult.
\textsuperscript{21} Moore, p. 94.
\textsuperscript{22} Fountaine enclosed a proof of the first of the volume's plates in a letter to Leibnitz of Jan 1703/4 (Leibnitz to Fountaine 29 Jan 1703/4, printed in Kemble, ed., p. 333, letter 145). Bishop Nicolson records that Fountaine 'left his Treatise of Coins for me at my lodgings' on 4 November 1704 (C. Jones and G. Holmes, \textit{op.cit.}, p. 219), suggesting that it was then available in printed form, but it appears in its final published version with a title leaf dated 1705. The explanation may be that by 4 November Fountaine's own text and plates had been printed, but that the letter from Hicks to Fountaine dated 30 September 1704, which with its accompanying engraved plate forms the last two leaves of the volume, was still in the press.
\textsuperscript{23} Remarks and collections of Thomas Hearne, edited by C. E. Doble (Oxford, 1885 onwards), vol. i, p. 42.
on 9 September that Pembroke's journey to Holland had been delayed, but Fountaine was at Oxford at Christmas 1705 and told Hearne then that he had 'lately been in Holland, where he has purchas'd a great number of curious books and coyns, some for himself but most for Lord Pembroke'.

As it happens, it is just at this time that we have the most extensive surviving description of Fountaine's coin collection, in a diary note by William Nicolson who had visited him at his London lodgings on St Andrew's day, 30 November 1705, and was 'most agreeably entertained by a sight of a most valuable collection of medals and coins, Greek, Roman, Saxon, etc.' (Nicolson's list of what he saw is reproduced below.)

On a second visit two months later, 31 January 1706, Nicolson was shown Fountaine's English coins and medals, and discussed with Fountaine the coinages of Carausius and Allectus, on which Fountaine, like more than one subsequent English numismatist, was proposing to write a monograph that never in fact materialised.

Fountaine is next glimpsed in January 1707, but on 7 February 1707 his father died, bequeathing him his house and estate at Narford, near the town of Castle Acre in the countryside west of Norwich. The elder Fountaine had run into debt at the end of his life, so there can have been little actual money to inherit, and residence at Narford in itself can have had little to attract Sir Andrew, who was neither married nor keen on country sports.

Narford was therefore let to neighbours, and Fountaine took himself off to Ireland, of which Lord Pembroke was appointed Lord Lieutenant in April.

Fountaine's activities in Ireland in 1707 are not directly documented, but Bishop Nicolson reported in a letter dated 24 January 1708 that 'Sir A. Fountaine accompanied his Lordship there and has brought back above one hundred Saxon pieces, which he had not before'.

A later diary note of Nicolson's, of 22 March 1709, indirectly confirms this, for at that date Fountaine possessed '370 different sorts of Saxon coins', whereas in the list of November 1705 he is only credited with 236 Anglo-Saxon silver pence and 10 or 12 copper coins of Northumbria.

For the period between 1709 and Fountaine's departure for a second European tour in 1714 our sources for Fountaine as a numismatist fail us, but we can follow his social life from the writer Jonathan Swift's Journal to Stella, in which Fountaine features regularly as a dining and drinking companion of Swift's between October 1710 and April 1713. In February 1713 Swift writes that Fountaine had 'a very bad sore leg, for which he desires to go to France', but he was still in England on 11 May 1714 and it probably was not until the autumn of 1714 that he left England.

He was in Paris in February 1715 and had reached Turin by August that year. He must then have pressed on to Florence, where he stayed long enough not merely to commission a portrait medal of himself from the Florentine medallist Antonio Francesco Selvi, but to be painted, together with 'the gentlemen who travelled with him', in an impressive conversation piece by the artist Giulio Pignatta set in the Tribuna of the Uffizi. This painting, as well as providing the best contemporary evidence for the appearance of the Tribuna itself, reveals that...
Fountaine was then accompanied by Lord Pembroke’s nineteen year old stepson, Hon. Richard Arundell, by another young aristocrat of the same age, Hon. Anthony Lowther, and by William Price, a more shadowy young man who was eventually to marry Fountaine’s niece and heiress. By February 1716 Fountaine was in Rome, where he spent the early spring, leaving in April for Venice. He was still at Venice with Arundell and Lowther on 25 September 1716, intending to set out on the following day for Germany.

Evidence for acquisitions of coins and antiquities by Fountaine on his second tour is sketchy, but obviously a year in Italy in 1715–16 would have given him the opportunity to add substantially to his and Lord Pembroke’s holdings in the Roman republican and imperial series. By this time Fountaine was collecting books, engravings, miniatures, and maiolica as well as coins and medals, and like many ardent collectors before and since, he possessed the charm and knowledge to negotiate as an equal with European dealers. In Rome, despite the relative shortness of his stays there in 1702 and 1716, he got on particularly well with the famous dealer Francesco Ficoroni, and an anecdote records that on a particular occasion Ficoroni, who had been commissioned by an elderly abbot to find a purchaser for an inherited collection of coins and medals, ‘brought him Sir Andrew Fountaine, who, he had before acquainted him, was a young English cavalliero on his travels, who knew nothing of medals himself, but had a mind to shew away, like other raw young fellows of fame and fortune, when he came home, with a little bad vertu. This did very well; but Ficoroni and Sir Andrew (who was one of the keenest virtuosi in Europe and out-Italianed the Italians themselves) had agreed, before they went, to pick out all the rare and valuable ones, which the Abbot was to let him have for low prices, as being in a manner trash, for so Ficoroni was to wink at him; by which means they plundered the poor ecclesiastick, while he was hugging himself on his and his friend’s duping the young English cully. When they were once down, and got out of the convent, Sir Andrew embraced Ficoroni, and said to him, as Augustus and Licinius might have done, ‘Noi siamo due becchi fututi’. The English source for this anecdote translates the last phrase as ‘We are a pair of precious dogs’.

On Fountaine’s return to England he settled for the first time on his Norfolk estate, commissioning the London builder and architect Roger Morris to add a library wing to the house at Narford. The building work at Narford, although ‘done with economy’, proved to be more expensive than Fountaine could afford, and although the chronology of the building work and of Fountaine’s financial problems is uncertain, the only solution was for Fountaine to find a buyer, or buyers, for his coin collection.

Fountaine still owned the collection in September 1720, when the scholar Humfry Wanley spent three days working through its Roman portion, inspecting ‘the Great Brass’ on 3 September, ‘the Middle Brass’ on 6 September, and part of the ‘Consular & Imperial silver coins’ on 7 September. It is not clear how soon after that he parted with the coins, but in a later eighteenth century memorandum by Benjamin Ibbot which provides a summary of the

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37 Ford, p. 357.
38 Ford, p. 357.
40 Thus the Ibbot memorandum, where the building work is credited in Robinson’s printed version to ‘Mr Roger Harris, an ingenious bricklayer, who had been foreman at the works of Grosvenor and Hanover Squares’, and is dated to 1718. Harris is an obvious misreading for Morris.
41 Morris’s building works at Narford may have extended into the 1720s, for it seems likely that in addition to his work on the house he designed the garden temple there (it is of similar character to designs featured in publications by Roger Morris’s kinsman Robert Morris: see N. Pevsner, The Buildings of England, North-West and South Norfolk (1962), p. 266, note, based on information supplied to Pevsner by John Harris). It may also be noted that Roger Morris’s second son, born in 1723, was christened ‘Andrew’, by no means a usual Christian name outside Scotland at that date: was Sir Andrew Fountaine his godfather?
main events of Fountaine's life, it is stated that Fountaine, 'having a good opportunity to dispose of the collection', 'his great friend, Earl Thomas' – that is to say, Lord Pembroke – 'had the picking or culling of what he chose or wanted'.43 I take this to mean that when a buyer or buyers for the collection had been found, but before the sale went through, Pembroke took the opportunity to select any coins that he particularly needed to fill gaps in his collection. It does not however follow from this that Pembroke was a major purchaser at this time, especially since it would not have been in Fountaine's financial interest for the best coins in the collection to have been disposed of to Pembroke before the main sale went through.

Who then was the principal buyer? In Ibbot's memorandum the sentence about Lord Pembroke is followed by one that reads as follows: 'The Duke of Devonshire had a great many to add to his, and the Venetian ambassador Cornaro took also a great number. The amount of which came to 8500, as I have heard himself [Fountaine] say'. Scholars have concluded from this and from the sentence about Pembroke that the collection was divided in three between Pembroke, Devonshire and Cornaro, but Pembroke may not have been a major purchaser and British numismatists at least have not realised that Francesco Cornaro, or Corner, had been the Venetian diplomatic representative in London as far back as the years 1705–9, the holder of the post from 1717 to 1728 being in reality Giacinto Fiorelli. By the 1720s Cornaro was living in complete obscurity in Venice, and it seems to me likely that Ibbot has confused two separate transactions, the sale of coins to Cornaro being one of duplicates and dating before Cornaro's recall from London to Venice in May 1709.44

William Cavendish, 2nd Duke of Devonshire, thus emerges as the likely purchaser of the majority of Fountaine's collection. The Duke emerged quite suddenly as a significant coin collector with his purchase in or just before 1719 of much of the substantial collection of coins formed by William Sherard, who had been British Consul at Smyrna (the modern Izmir) between 1704 and 1715.45 Sherard's collection was especially strong in coins of the Greek world in the Hellenistic period, and Fountaine's collection, very strong in the Roman series and thought by Browne Willis as early as 1716 to be the 'completest' collection of English coins in existence,46 would have been a natural complement to it. It is unfortunate that the Duke's papers have disappeared as completely as Lord Pembroke's, but the content of the Devonshire collection as a whole can be established from a later eighteenth century manuscript catalogue still preserved at Chatsworth, as well as from the sale catalogue produced when the collection was sold at Christie's in 1844.47 What is more obvious about the collection is the very large number of coins that it contained, which seems to point clearly to it incorporating the bulk of Fountaine's collection. In the Anglo-Saxon series, for example, Lord Pembroke, even after buying whatever he may have wanted from Fountaine, limited himself to just 48 carefully selected coins. The Devonshire collection, by contrast, contained no fewer than 689 Anglo-Saxon and related Viking-age coins, and it is difficult to see how the 2nd Duke could have come anywhere near such a total unless he had acquired all the 370 Anglo-

43 The quotation is from the Ibbot memorandum.
44 The career of Francesco Cornaro or Corner (1670–1734), Venetian Ambassador in London from 1705 to 1709, is conveniently summarised in the entry on him in Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani, vol. 29 (1983), pp. 205–6.
45 The first volume of N.F. Haym's Tesoro Britannico, published in 1719, describes some coins from the Duke of Devonshire's collection, while the second volume, published in the following year, is dedicated to the Duke and is dominated by his coins, with those acquired from Sherard being distinguished by a half-moon symbol beside the illustration of each relevant specimen. As Haym already states on p.x. of the English text of his introduction to the first volume that the Duke's collection 'is now one of the most conspicuous and numerous of any in England' and that it is his intention that the second volume 'will be almost filled' with coins from it, it can be deduced that the transaction with Sherard had already taken place when he wrote that introduction.
46 Willis's opinion to that effect is quoted by Thomas Hearne in a letter to Edward Burton dated 11 August 1716 (Doble, op.cit., v, p. 275).
47 The collection was sold as 'A very important collection', without the Devonshire ownership being mentioned, in a two-part sale at Christie's between 18 and 30 March 1844.
Saxon coins that Fountaine had possessed in 1709, plus any that Fountaine had obtained since. Similarly, where Pembroke possessed around 100 Roman coins of the period Gallienus–Probus, including those of the Gallic Emperors and of Carausius and Allectus, the Devonshire collection contained about 700 such coins, including a particularly good series of coins of Gallienus which was purchased at the 1844 sale for the British Museum and which may well include most of the coins seen in Fountaine’s collection by Bishop Nicolson in 1705.

It may indeed be that the 2nd Duke’s collection was formed entirely by these two transactions, the first with Sherard and the second with Fountaine, for there is no evidence for him as a buyer of coins otherwise, and his death on 4 June 1729 put a stop to further large transactions. It does not follow that all the coins in the 1844 sale derive from Sherard or Fountaine, for the 4th Duke, who died in 1764, is known to have been a buyer at least of medals, and as with the collection of any great noble family there must have been sporadic additions, particularly in the later eighteenth century when the surviving manuscript catalogue was compiled.48 I suggest nonetheless that any Roman coin, Anglo-Saxon coin or English mediaeval coin in the Devonshire collection is more likely to derive from Fountaine’s collection than from any other source.

With the sale of his coins Fountaine ceased to play any direct role in the world of coin collecting, but his career was nonetheless to have a numismatic finale. At some point in the first half of the 1720s he obtained an appointment at court as Vice-Chamberlain of the Household to Caroline, Princess of Wales, wife of the future King George II of England. He held his position long enough to attract a spiteful mention from the poet Alexander Pope in the Dunciad as ‘Annias, crafty seer, with ebon wand, and well-dissembled emerald on his hand, false as his gems and cankered as his coins’; but he fell from favour and was forced in 1727 to exchange his Household post for that of Warden of the Mint.49 At this date it was the Master of the Mint, not the Warden, who carried the principal responsibility for the production of the English coinage, and Fountaine left it to deputies to perform most of his duties, but he naturally took an interest in the Mint’s records, and for a period after 1737, when the Master of the Mint was his old travelling companion Richard Arundell, Lord Pembroke’s stepson, his advice must have been particularly welcome.

Fountaine’s ties with Lord Pembroke’s family strengthened rather than weakened as time passed, and Lord Pembroke’s country house at Wilton became so much of a second home that he and Arundell could on one occasion shock the ladies of the household with impunity by chalking obscene graffiti on Pembroke’s classical sculptures. His welcome at Wilton outlasted old Lord Pembroke’s death on 22 January 1733, for Fountaine had always been a friend of Pembroke’s son Henry Herbert, the new Lord Pembroke, and when Henry died in his turn in January 1750 Fountaine mourned him as ‘the oldest and best friend I had in the world’.50 Fountaine himself survived three more years, dying on 4 September 1753.

In his memorandum on Fountaine, Benjamin Ibbot follows his account of the dispersal of Fountaine’s coins by drawing the conclusion that ‘the Pembroke and Devonshire collections were for the most part formed by Sir Andrew’. Although this is not literally correct, for Lord Pembroke made his own decisions about acquisitions and Fountaine was only his adviser or agent, it is essentially true that these two contrasting collections – Lord Pembroke’s very

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48 The 4th Duke is known to have consulted Thomas Hollis about buying some of the Anglo-Saxon coins in the Thoresby collection when that was finally dispersed in a sale of 5–7 March 1764. At least one marked copy of the Thoresby sale catalogue indicates that the dealer Thomas Snelling purchased a number of lots for the Duke but if that was so, it may not be that the coins actually reached the Duke, for his health was failing and he died in the autumn of that year.

49 A manuscript note by Horace Walpole begins ‘Sir Andrew Fountain . . . was formerly vice-chamberlain to Queen Caroline when Princess of Wales, but disgraced for having’. Unfortunately the words that originally followed ‘having’ have been cut out of Walpole’s surviving manuscript (The Yale edition of Horace Walpole’s Correspondence, edited by W.S. Lewis, vol. 30, p. 4, n. 15).

50 Moore, p. 112.
carefully selected, with an unsurpassed series of aurei of every Roman emperor then obtainable, and with some astonishing individual rarities in other fields, and the Duke of Devonshire’s vast and comprehensive – resulted from Fountaine’s knowledge and expertise, and it is valuable to recognise that in an age when numismatic publication was still haphazard, an intelligent collector like Fountaine was likely to aquire much more knowledge about coins than was possessed by most academic scholars. Although both collections were dispersed in the nineteenth century, Devonshire’s in 1844 and Pembroke’s in 1848, many of the coins from them can still be traced and they are in a real sense Fountaine’s legacy to us.\textsuperscript{51}

One may conclude by mentioning the obverse of a portrait medal of Fountaine by the Swiss engraver Jacques-Antoine Dassier, dated 1744 and with the inscription which forms the title of this paper, equating Fountaine’s actual position as one of the three principal officers of the London mint to the position that he might have held at the mint of Rome under the Roman Republic or Principate, and exemplifying his unique position in the world of numismatics in the opening years of the eighteenth century.

\textbf{William Nicolson’s List of the ‘Chief Remarkables’ in Sir Andrew Fountaine’s Collection, 30 November 1705}

1. Ten nummi restituti of Gallienus.
2. Thirty-two of the said Emperour; with Reverses of different Birds or Beasts, or in different postures.
3. Nineteen Legions, and Twenty-six divinities, of the same.
   [All or most of these he had from one person in Bishop-Gate-Street: the same, I suppose, whom my Lord Pembroke mentioned to me last winter]
4. Three Salonina’s, with three several Veneres (Venus Victrix, Faelix and Genetrix) on the reverse.
5. The XXXa Ulpia Legio of Galienus; a Duplicate of which (very Rare) he gave to Lord Pembroke.
6. Another Galienus with Vict.aet.s.p. on the Reverse: in one of the samples whereof (for he has three of em; all somewhat differing) the p is put twixt e and t: which occasioned Monsieur Vaillant’s reading it Nept. as if the Medal had been struck in Memory of some Sea-Victory.
9. Caracalla; with a Julia Augusta on the R.
10. Caracalla and Severus. [Capita Juguta]
11. Theodebertus Francorum R in Gold. small.
12. Patin’s Kaisar Sebastos (in brass) and three more cost him about 80 11. He also bought up the whole collection of the said Patin at Padua.
13. A Roman Head in Gold, set in a Ring, the Convex side being out; under which the Concave, of the same face, makes an Impression fairer than the Prototype.
15. Two Hundred and Thirty-Six Saxon coins in Silver with Ten or Twelve of the Northymbrians in brass. [He gives 2s 6d for each piece of Saxon; which brings him in the Monopoly.]

\textsuperscript{51} The Pembroke collection was sold in a Christie’s sale of 31 July–19 August 1848. There had been no significant additions to the collection since the 8th Earl’s death.
16. A Series of the Roman Coins de aere minimo (called also Sextula), which convinced me that Dr Smith's Carausius and Allectus are of this class; and not (as he would have em) de aere modoico.
17. Thomas Simon's Tryal-Piece of Charles the Second's Crown; with his petition round the Rim.
18. Henry the 7th's Shilling; the full weight of three of his Groats [The Archbishop of York has a Couple of these].
23. Half-Crown of the same (with the Arms of England) after the Queen's Death.
24. Queen Elizabeth's Scutu Fidei in Gold; as fairly milled as her Shillings and Sixpences.
25. A true Nero; with a Counterfeit Adlocutio carved on the Reverse.

Sir Andrew also shewed us a lovely Wolf (with Romulus and Remus) which he had, cast in Brass, from Mr Wrenn; Monsieur Molinet's Cabinet de la Bibliotheque de Sainte Genevieve, richly stocked with antiquities, particularly a draught of the Dipondiu, which Sir Andrew himself lately transferred (with many more choice rarities) from his own Cabinet to Lord Pembroke; &. He gave us a pleasant account of the Italian plowmen imposeing on Travellers, by pretending to find Medals just as come up to em; and of Dr Battely's Labienus (with Cingulum on the reverse) being only a Copy of a Counterfeit.