In making the presentation, the President said:

FOR those of you who are unfamiliar with it, the Council Prize was instituted in 1986. It is awarded every three years and is intended to encourage younger students who are making a significant contribution to the study of those coins, medals and tokens which fall within our terms of reference. Previous winners have been Mark Blackburn in 1987, Edward Besly in 1990 and Barrie Cook in 1993; and it is to their names that the name of Martin Allen is now to be added. And deservedly so, for since he joined the Society in 1977 he has developed into a short cross specialist of genuine stature, one of that small group of short cross enthusiasts who I am sure will be fondly remembered by future generations.

His numismatic development is to be seen in the papers that he has already published in our *Journal*, particularly on Class 1a and Class 5, in the assistance he was generous enough to offer with the publication of John Brand’s thesis, and still more in his acceptance as a part-time PhD student in the Department of Archaeology at Durham University under the supervision of John Casey. His subject is the Durham mint and I know that his work is taking him on a determined search through exchequer memoranda rolls, pipe rolls, close rolls and other such documents, promising much in the way of new information and fresh insights.

All this he has done, and is doing, without the benefit of a professional numismatic appointment, without the financial support of an institution, and far from London. Distance, indeed, has not stopped him from supporting the numismatic world in a more general way by his regular attendance at Congresses, Lecture Courses and special meetings. On behalf of Council I am pleased to hand him the Council Prize for 1996, confident in the belief that future *Journals* will bear witness to his continuing industry.