REVIEWS


To all except the most narrow specialist this book will be of interest. Its scope is vast, covering the history of money from earliest times to the end of the twentieth century. Individual chapters consider the coinages of the first civilizations, the Roman world, medieval and early modern Europe, the Islamic lands, Asia, Africa and Oceania. Each chapter is written by a specialist curator from the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum and their contributions are lavishly illustrated with coins and other forms of money, the majority being from the BM's own collections.

Money: A History draws on a variety of sources beyond the coins themselves. Documentary sources are used throughout, ranging from the Book of Genesis, Mark's Gospel, the Qur'an and the Hindu Vedas to classical authors such as Livy, Lucan and Pliny and, closer to our own time, Adam Smith, Karl Marx and John Maynard Keynes. For the earlier periods archaeological evidence is cited, as for example the el-Amarna hoard from Ancient Egypt, or the relative numbers of coins recovered from the urban and rural sites of Roman Britain. For the latter periods the writings of anthropologists such as Bronislaw Malinowski or Mary Douglas are introduced to consider the economies of indigenous societies. Nor are artistic representations of the social context of money ignored; indeed the book's cover is illustrated with the early sixteenth-century painting by Quentin Matsys, A Money Lender and his Wife.

This is a highly readable volume. It is based on sound scholarship that is not diminished by a popular approach. Money: A History illustrates many coins familiar to the British numismatist, such as the follis of Constantine the Great with the 'camp gate' reverse, or an Edwardian long cross penny or the Soho 'cartwheel' twopenny coin. He or she might also be aware of the silver grosso of Venice, the Maria Theresa thaler or the brass manilla used as a means of exchange in West Africa. But how many have encountered the amazing variety of coins used by the Chinese or the cloth money of the Congo? To the present reviewer, a museum curator, it will undoubtedly prove a useful starting point for further research. Perhaps uniquely it has a gateway function, allowing access to more detailed sources through its extensive bibliography.

Of course in any book of this nature there are bound to be omissions. It is rather surprising though that the Celtic coinages of Britain and Gaul are almost completely ignored, especially in view of the recent publication of the British Museum's own collection (Hobbs 1996, British Iron Age Coins in the British Museum). These coins are dismissed in a single short sentence and one illustration of a classically inspired coin of Tincomarus that is hardly representative. However, this would appear to be the only significant example.

The great strength of Money: A History lies in the opportunity it affords the reader to explore the development of money in different areas of the world at different times. It is possible to identify the routes by which the use of money spread outwards from its origins in Mesopotamia and Egypt five thousand years ago. The original practice of bullion use developed into the first coinage in Lydia and the Greek city states. Greek influence then spread coin use eastwards to India and westwards to the emerging city state of Rome during the late fourth century BC. The Roman Empire itself created a unified system across its extended territory, in much the same way that the colonial powers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries would introduce their concept of money into Africa and Oceania. There are also recurring themes across time and space. For example the role of the banker in society was filled by the merchants of Tuscany and Lombardy in fifteenth-century Italy and by the Jains, a Buddhist sect, in twelfth-century India. Yet by contrast it is clear that European notions of money are very different from those of indigenous societies elsewhere in the world, especially in Africa and Oceania. Here money serves not as a 'medium of exchange' but as a 'means of making payments' to create and maintain various complex social relationships in what were once described as 'primitive cultures'.

The design of the volume is of a very high standard. Page layout is varied by clever use of illustrations at different sizes and locations within the text. Many of these 500 or so illustrations are in colour. The text is uncluttered by bibliographic references, footnotes or figure numbers – these latter appear in the margin at the relevant point in the text. This makes it easier to follow the arguments advanced by the authors. The use of picture essays within each chapter is also worthy of praise, as it adds an extra dimension both in design terms and information content.

The book was published to accompany the opening of the HSBC Money Gallery at the British Museum on 30 January 1997. For those able to visit this gallery it will act as a reminder of the importance of this event in the presentation of money as a subject in a museum display. For all it remains a beautifully designed and scholarly account of this aspect of human society.

PHILIP J. WISE


The appearance of the fiftieth volume in the SCBI series is an event which those who launched the SCBI project in the mid 1950s can scarcely have dared to predict. To publish as many as fifty volumes in a period of just over forty years – the first volume appeared in 1958 – is by any standard a remarkable achievement, and the numismatic community is deeply intended to the unselfish labours of those who have successively edited the series (Christopher Blunt, Michael Dolley, Mark Blackburn). They would themselves as readily acknowledge the steady support that the series editors have always received from the distinguished scholars who have in turn chaired the British...
For those with a sense of history it is also fitting that this fiftieth volume should appear under the authorship of Dr. Vsevolod Potin, first appointed to the staff of the Hermitage Museum shortly before the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, and more familiar with its numismatic collection than any other living person. As Dr. Potin's preface records, it was he who prepared the complete card catalogue on which the volume is based, no small undertaking when the collection contains no fewer than 1508 coins struck before the end of the reign of Aethelred II, and although the final text was entered on computer by William Lean, to whom the volume is much indebted, the volume is a fitting culmination to decades of scholarly work by Potin on Viking-Age coins found in the territory of the former Soviet Union.

Surprisingly enough, it is not until coin 266 in the volume, a poor specimen of a coin of Eadgar's Reform type by the York moneyer Fastolf, that the reader will come across a coin which might well have been found in Russia or in one of the smaller states on its Baltic seaboard. All the previous 265 coins look likely to have been discovered in Britain or Ireland, with the possible exception of a handful of Series E sceattas ('porcupines') which may derive from a find or finds in the Netherlands. The present in the Hermitage collection of so many coins of British or Irish provenance struck under Eadward the Martyr's predecessors is largely due to the purchase for the Hermitage in the late 1850s of a large collection formed by Jakob Reichel (1780–1856), a St Petersburg resident who bought extensively from London dealers and London auction sales from the 1830s onwards. Another collection, confiscated from the aristocratic Stroganov family after the October Revolution and housed in the Hermitage since 1925, also incorporates numerous coins likely to have been acquired in London, whether by agents acting for the Stroganovs or by other collectors whose collections were later acquired by the Stroganovs en bloc.

So far as the Reichel coins are concerned, a printed catalogue was issued by the collector himself between 1842 and 1845, and Reichel's own annotated copy of this, still preserved in the Hermitage, enables a reliable reconstruction of what the collection contained and which coins from it feature in the present volume. Additionally, Reichel's surviving marked copies of London auction catalogues reveal that individual coins derive from such well-known collections as those of Very Rev. H.R. Dawson (the 'Dean of St Patrick') and John Brunell, while other coins are sufficiently distinctive that they can plausibly be identified as specimens which once belonged to J.D. Cuff, C.W. Loscombe and collectors of similar date and standing.

The result is that for the period preceding Eadgar's reform the scholar of today is confronted by a larger number of coins from British and Irish mints than ever before. These last have an unpretentious appearance - Reichel's distance from London must have made it difficult for him to obtain any of the more striking rarities in the series - but they include a number of individual coins which are in fact the only known specimens of particular moneyers or varieties.

The Hermitage's holdings for Eadgar's Reform Small Cross type and for Eadward the Martyr still appear to be of predominantly British origin, but Aethelred's First Small Cross type is a watershed - the type is entirely absent from the collection - and from this point onwards the great bulk of the coins may be presumed to have been found in Russia, the Baltic states or Scandinavia. A list of nineteen hoards known or likely to be represented by coins in this volume comprises seventeen from Russia, one from Latvia, and one from what is now Ukraine, but a good proportion of the coins of Aethelred II in the Reichel and Stroganov collections could well derive from comparable hoards found in Sweden or Denmark, in the first half of the nineteenth century. Lean has in fact discovered since the volume was published that coins 316 and 923, acquired by Reichel at a Stockholm auction sale in 1853, derive from an eighteenth century hoard from Lundby in Sweden reconstructed some years ago by Kenneth Jonsson, and he also now feels confident that coin 1123 is a specimen that featured as lot 1555 in the 1790 sale in Copenhagen of the collection of Count Otto von Thott.

More importantly, a note in the archives of the Royal Coin Cabinet in Stockholm (discovered by Kenneth Jonsson prior to this volume's publication but inadvertently not cited in the volume's introduction) reveals that in 1860 the Hermitage Museum received as part of an exchange with Stockholm 85 coins of Aethelred II and one of Eadward the Confessor, not further described but all presumably deriving from Scandinavian sources.

The specialist in the coinage of Aethelred II will see that William Lean has devoted considerable effort to checking for die-links in this reign, both within the volume and with coins in other collections. This has enabled him to record a number of new obverse die-links connecting coins of different moneys and mints, and although the conventions of the SCBI series have precluded him from highlighting those which are especially unusual or surprising, he has been an exemplary contribution for which future students of the coinage of Aethelred II will be permanently grateful. Students of the issues of the Lincoln mint may also like to know that Lean has discovered that a number of the coins of Aethelred II in the Hermitage are from dies or die-combinations not recorded by the late Henry Mossop, and it would be interesting to know to what extent new material discovered since the publication of Mossop's book in 1970 have affected calculations as to the total number of obverse and reverse dies used at Lincoln in any given type in the later Anglo-Saxon period.

It is customary to end a review by pointing out any obvious minor errors or omissions, but the volume has been prepared with such expertise that the present reviewer has no his own part only discovered one omission, and that an omission for which the responsibility is in fact his, since when looking at the relevant part of the catalogue in draft he failed to remember that there are two surviving manuscript catalogues of Dean Dawson's collection. These indicate that the two coins of Eadward the Elder acquired for Reichel at the Dean of St Patrick sale in 1842 were most probably coins 212 and 213 in the present
volume (Lean’s text leaves it open which two of the three coins 212–14 derive from the 1842 sale).

Lean has however himself drawn the reviewer’s attention to a few additional minor blemishes in the volume, most notably the fact that the obverse die-link claimed in it between coin 757, a coin of Æthelred’s Long Cross type by the London moneyer Aethelried, and a coin of the same type by the Oxford moneyer Leofman, SCBI Polish Museums 100, is a mirage (an error was made when mounting the plates of the Polish Museums volume). He also points out that the weights given for coins 517 and 523, and perhaps for other coins as well, need re-checking.

**HUGH PAGAN**


The modern classification of the English gold coinage from 1344 to 1603 was an enterprise that occupied members of the British Numismatic Society and others throughout the first half of the twentieth century. The classifications, reign by reign, made use mainly of privy marks and letter punches, and on that basis divided the coins into successive varieties, which could be formally defined and recognized, and which could be dated more or less closely. The study of the gold almost always played second fiddle to that of the silver, which seemed to offer a more secure basis, if not for classification, then at least for exact chronology. That was so, partly because the minting of silver tended to be more abundant, and was sometimes more continuous, but mainly because the material to be studied was more abundant and — let us admit — more affordable. There was also sometimes the difficulty that, as Peter Woodhead expresses it in his splendid sylloge volume, ‘the gold coinage ... does not run exactly in parallel with the silver and cannot satisfactorily be classified with it’ (p. 71).

The roll-call of distinguished names is impressive indeed. F. A. Walters published in *NC* 1904–5; L.A. Lawrence wrote a series of four papers also in *NC*, 1926–33, subsequently reprinted as a book; the deep store of learning of G.C. Brooke is summed up in *English Coinage* (1932); C.A. Whitton published in *BNJ* between 1938 and 1951; C.E. Blunt published thoughtful and important work in *BNJ* from 1935 onwards, and also collaborated with Whitton; Winstanley made his contribution in the 1940s and subsequently. The list could be made fuller, but the point to note is that these and other scholars made a thorough job of the task of classification and that therefore their work has cast long shadows. Sometimes it has seemed that there was little left to do that would be impressive. A more recent hoard may have yielded coins which served to clarify, confirm, or correct some small section of the scheme, and the publication which discusses that point is an essential part of our working bibliography, but somehow the great men of the past still occupy the foreground.

And our attitudes towards numismatists are not exactly their attitudes. Standing on their shoulders, we see a little farther. We are more intrigued than perhaps they were, with how the classification correlates with the composition of hoards. How the varieties correlated with the output figures has long been a preoccupation, especially since Stokes published the bullion tables in 1929 — and sometimes it has been a headache. Monetary historians such as Mavis Mate have approached the gold coinage with quite other questions in mind than the antiquarian concerns of the great numismatists of the past, making one wonder sometimes just how much the numismatic detail of the gold coinage has to offer to the general historian. Finally, we like to know nowadays how many dies were used, and how the numbers of dies might correlate with the varieties, as a perspective on the status of the varieties.

We are at last seeing a real resurgence of interest, for example in Challis’s magisterial work, culminating in *The Tudor Coinage* (1978) and, of course, the *New History of the Royal Mint* (1992). At the hands-on level, the detailed researches of Tim Webb Ware stand in the fine tradition of the ‘British’.

The late Herbert Schneider was a member of the Society from 1947 onwards, which is the year in which he was demobilised from the British army. His magnificent collection of English gold coins was built up mainly from that time onwards. This first volume records 890 coins, chosen with care and purpose, and in some sections dense enough to aspire to represent individual dies. The photographs, by the maestro, Frank Purvey, are of very high quality, faithfully reproducing the softness of the gold. The catalogue entries, with meticulous transcription of the legends (in the inscriptive typeface in the genesis of which our reviewer had a hand), record all the diagnostic details, die-links, multiple references to publications, and quite often enviable pedigrees. The arrangement and procedure of the entries are explained at pp. 127–9.

Peter Woodhead modestly says that ‘to some extent this Sylloge has written itself, as indeed a catalogue of any soundly assembled collection should’. How very far this is from the truth, only those who have laboured to prepare sylloge volumes will fully appreciate. His introduction of nearly a hundred pages gives a succinct, careful, and very thorough summary of the gold coinage, under the six headings (for each reign) of Background, Issues, Mints, Conditions, References and Classification, and Output. The discussion incorporates tables of mint-output. The quantities of bullion conflate the amounts used for each denomination, so that if we attempt to make estimates of average output per die, the figures will inevitably be slightly impressionistic. One’s impression (but it is no more than that) is that dies for gold were often under-used in relation to their presumed technical capacity. This has a bearing on the “fine tuning” of the correlation between varieties and bullion accounting periods.

The entirely admirable introduction is followed by a hoard-list with 197 entries — again a most welcome and indispensable instrument de travail. There is a good bibliography and an index of provenances.

The Schneider collection opens auspiciously with the gold penny of Henry III, one of only seven known specimens, this one is ex Granville who, interestingly, bought it in Rome. No. 2 is a quarter-noble of Edward III, of 1344–6. Thereafter the representation becomes dense, in almost every known type. The reign of Edward V is represented, in accordance with Webb Ware’s new classification, by just one or possibly two coins (nos. 482 and 7481). From the late fifteenth century onwards, the
collection contains more sovereigns and pounds than one could hope to dream about, never mind lay hands on. Finally, and appropriately in view of Schneider’s trading base in Antwerp, the volume ends with an outstanding collection of continental imitations of English nobles (nos. 826–38) and rylls (839–80), the latter with quite heavy die-linkage.

It is to be hoped that Peter Woodhead’s exemplary sylloge volume will stimulate renewed work on the English gold coinage – at the next level of detail, that is, individual dies, not just ‘because it’s there’, but in the hope of bringing the coins and the bullion tables into more precise alignment, with due attention to fluctuations in the survival rate, and the contribution of particular hoards. There is plenty to do – in particular to construct age-profiles of the hoards as an approach to the changing composition (and volume) of the gold currency, distinguishing between English and foreign hoards in that regard (and perhaps, even, between the main regions of England, e.g. north vs. south, etc.). The amount of surviving evidence is by no means lavish for this task, which should provide a basic series of statistics for English monetary history. This is an inexact science, requiring sensitive judgement. Until now, numismatists studying the English gold coinage have focussed their enquiries very much upon the coins at the point of issue, and on the arrangements for their issue – and much less upon what happened to the coins after they were put into circulation. Metcalfe is another area where the evidence deserves to be scrutinized afresh in the framework of comparing the individual hoards.

D.M. METCALF


The second volume of Coincraft’s Standard Catalogue, like Seaby’s before it, covers the coins of Scotland, Ireland and the islands. However, as with the Coincraft English catalogue, it comes in a larger format. It is well laid out and produced, with an extensive range of illustrations, for the most part of a good quality. The reader should find it a pleasant book to use.

The Scottish coinage, split between hammered and milled, is dealt with chronologically by reign, and up to the end of Alexander III’s first coinage in 1280 is by issue, since only pennies were struck. From John Balliol, however, listing is by denomination from the largest value to the lowest. Thus for David II his gold noble of 1357 comes first while his earliest coins, the pennies and halfpennies of the 1330s, appear towards the end of the reign’s entry.

It might be expected that Ireland would be dealt with in the same way, but somewhat inconsistently the Irish coins are listed wholly by denomination. Thus the milled section begins with the issues of the Civil War. The earlier Hiberno-Norse pennies only appear much further on. The milled section starts with the Bank of Ireland tokens of the early nineteenth century. Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man are also dealt with by denomination under the pre-decimal and decimal periods.

The denominational approach is novel to the Scottish and Irish series which have hitherto always been treated chronologically. This latter method seems to have worked quite satisfactorily. This, of course, should not preclude other approaches and having all the groats or pennies together should make identification of such a piece quicker and easier. However the complicated coinages of James VI seem only to have become more confusing. Cataloguing by denomination is perhaps better suited to more modern, simple coinages.

The large format and greater length allows considerably more space and detail for each entry. Apart from a few, highlighted heading, there are included ‘Collecting Hints’, obverse and reverse legends with translations, obverse and reverse descriptions, the Coincraft reference number and up to three valuations or degrees of rarity, usually accompanied by one or more photographic illustrations.

The types and inscriptions are quite clear and full, and it is useful to have the translation beside rather than having to seek it in a single list at the front or back of the book. The collecting hints are on the whole helpful though some of the shorter ones are repetitious and do not indicate more than can be gleaned from the valuations. Valuation is always difficult but the prices given seem to reflect the current trends reasonably well, much as one would like to see some of them lower. The reference number seems somewhat cumbersome and continually jumps by five, thus Seaby 5131 and 5132 = Coincraft SR24D-005 and SR24D-010.

The Scottish hammered section commences with a potted history, the style of which could be improved. Otherwise it may be noted that, though proxy marls did begin in David II’s reign, the cross at the start of the legends remained merely an initial cross. Mary Queen of Scots was legitimate. Charles I was not the only surviving child of James VI in 1625. His sister Elizabeth, the ‘Winter Queen’ of Bohemia, outlived Charles until 1662.

In the catalogue there is a tendency to tidy and simplify standard terminology which may make its use easier for the new collector but may lead to confusion when moving on to previous, and accepted, studies. Thus Stewart’s four periods of David I’s pennies become first to fourth issues. William the Lion’s Short Cross pennies, which should logically be termed his third issue, are headed ‘Short Cross & St. John’. Within this, classes I and II are the same as the long-established Stewart phases a and b; phases c and d become Alexander II’s classes I and II. The collecting hints are omitted for William’s Short Cross issues and could have indicated that the the Walter phase b issue is by far the most common and readily available.

By contrast the term Long Cross is not used to any obvious degree. Alexander’s first coinage is listed as classes 1–7 and care will need to be exercised in discussing any of these Long Cross classes since elsewhere they are given as types II–VIII (being transitional). In the list of

1 The editors would like to thank Professor Metcalfe for agreeing to write this review when it became clear that the person first approached would be unable to complete it. The long delay between the publication of the sylloge and the appearance of this review is emphatically not of his making.
The section on the Scottish milled coinage begins with a short but interesting resume of the issues. However, Sir John Fainconer of Balmakellie should be allowed to retain his correct name and place of origin, and William of Orange should remain the Second of Scotland and the Third of England. There is much more detail here in the entries which are well arranged. The gold for the pistole issue of 1701, however, came from Africa, not Darien. The Edinburgh issues of Queen Anne after the Union are omitted, though there is a note of intent to include them in the next edition.

There follows a section on the early 19th-century countermarked dollars. There is no reference to the countermarked copper, nor indeed to the large series of Scottish trade tokens which are more available to the collector. The inclusion of 'Ecus and other pieces' perhaps gives such pieces a respectability they may not deserve.

The Irish coinage is also divided into hammered and milled sections. However, the full denominational approach introduces the hammered series with the double pistole of 1646, a coin so rare the collector is hardly ever likely to see one. Let alone acquire a specimen. Civil War issues continue until the section on shillings which begins with those of Edward VI.

The introduction to the Irish milled coinage covers the topic very well and makes an interesting read. The description of the st. shilling of 1763. Thereafter the pennies, halfpennies and farthings are well detailed and illustrated.

The section on groats is perhaps the best argument for the format used and should prove useful. The lower values follow in order. The sixpence begins with the Hibemino-Norse issues, which are dealt with in some detail and in their seven chronological groups, though nowhere is there reference to the well-established Phases I—VII. The initial heading to the Anglo-Irish pence describes John as 'King of Ireland' but even after 1199 he remained Lord of Ireland — Ireland was only raised to the status of a kingdom by Henry VIII.

The Soho Mint and the Industrialization of Money. by Richard Doty (Smithsonian Institution/British Numismatic Society/Spink, 1998), 351 pages, b/w illus. in text.

In this book Doty presents us with the results of his labours in the Matthew Boulton Papers, a massive archive containing many tens of thousands of documents now preserved in Birmingham Reference Library. After an introduction (pp. 1—22) putting Boulton into his Birmingham context and giving an overview of the foundation and development of the Soho complex, chapter 1 (pp. 23—73) tells the story of the three successive mints that operated at Soho between 1788 and 1850. The bulk of the book (chapters 2—9, pp. 74—296) is devoted to an area which Doty has taken the lead in unravelling — the attempts of Boulton and his son, Matthew Robinson, to export their new steam-powered mints around the world. Detailed accounts are given of their triumphs, tribulations (and failures) in Russia, Denmark, Brazil, India, Mexico, the USA, Austria, Germany and various other countries. The book ends with chapter 10 (pp. 297—339), in which Doty estimates the likely production runs of the assorted coins and tokens struck at Soho over the years (he estimates a grand total of at least 464,396,767 pieces).

The Soho story is fascinating and Doty is a good storyteller producing a book that is a pleasure to read, with many felicitous (and memorable) turns of phrase (on p. 11, after a particularly harrowing piece of doggerel by one J. Morthit, we find 'Morthit later decided to abandon poetry for the law. The Muse thanks him'). Doty's account of Boulton's frustrating relationship with Jean-Pierre Droz and the equally trying decade he spent angling for the government contract to strike a new copper coinage (which ultimately gave us the Cartwheel penny and twopence) is detailed and entertaining. Given the problems he faced and the financial losses he endured over this period, one can only admire Boulton's persistence — and acknowledge how much he owed to the forbearance and support of Mrs Charlotte Matthews, his banker from...
1792, when her husband died, until her own death in 1802. Not only did her willingness to extend him regular loans tide him over his perennial cash-flow crises, but from 1795 her house doubled as his London office and, in 1797, it served as the warehouse from which the Cartwheels were fed into circulation in the capital.

Inevitably, there are some minor errors and points to note. First, Boulton's father came to Birmingham from Lichfield, not Litchfield. Second, we do know the date of Boulton's second marriage — it took place at Rotherhithe, London on 25 June 1760 (E. Delleb and M. Roberts, *The Great Silver Manufactury Matthew Boulton and the Birmingham Silversmiths 1760-1790*, pp. 18–19).

More seriously, at the start of the book (p. 2), Doty maintains 'nor does there appear to have been a consistent habitation there (sc Birmingham) through most of the Middle Ages'. But Birmingham did not spring suddenly into existence in the sixteenth or seventeenth century. It was probably a mediaeval new town, founded around 1166 by Peter de Birmingham. The town clearly flourished very quickly — by the early 1390s it was paying the second largest tax bill in Warwickshire, more than the county town of Warwick and second (albeit a poor second) only to Coventry, one of the greatest cities of England at the time. Doty's market town of the 1530s had actually been a thriving centre of metal, cloth and leather working for almost four centuries. What has misled generations of historians is the failure of Birmingham's lords to obtain legal status as a borough for it; although they treated it as a town and it functioned as a town. Birmingham remained legally a village right up until the nineteenth century. Doty also notes Birmingham's lack of a mint in the Middle Ages, 'which is a fair indicator of a town's importance through most of Britain's history'. In fact, with the exception of a few months minting at Coventry in 1404–5, there was no mint at all anywhere in Warwickshire from 1158 until the eighteenth century. Birmingham simply appeared on the scene just as minting in England became more and more centralised.

Doty's account of the organisation of the Mint business is not as clear as it might be, although he rightly puts Boulton at centre stage as the driving force behind it. The Soho Mint was not only run by Matthew Boulton and partner Matthew Watt (and subsequently by his son and grandson). The firm of Boulton and Watt (later Boulton, Watt and Company) did not make coins, nor did it sell mints. Rather it acted as a subcontractor to the Mint in this aspect of the latter's business, contributing vital technical advice and expertise.

Other aspects of Doty's account have also been questioned. For example, we would disagree with the view of Matthew Robinson Boulton propounded by Doty (and others). It is a misconception that he largely retreated to his country estate at Great Tew in Oxfordshire; he used it mainly during the shooting season. Soho House continued to be the family's main residence during his lifetime and he spent much money improving both the house and its grounds. He also remained actively involved in running the whole range of businesses that came under the Soho umbrella.

Doty also states (pp. 37, 302–3) that the Macclesfield and Cronbane tokens were the first money in the world to be struck by steam. While the case for the Cronbane tokens is clear, others have argued that the evidence suggests that in fact no Macclesfield tokens were actually struck by Boulton.

Finally, recent work by George Demidowicz on the physical layout and the development over time of the mint (and its machinery) and of the other buildings at the Soho Manufactory suggests that Doty's account may need revision on a number of points. For instance, the discovery of previously unrecognised plans pertaining to the second Soho Mint and archaeological investigations carried out in 1996 throw new light on its development and operation.

These criticisms should be seen as reflecting the vast amount of work that still remains to be done on Boulton and his mint. As Doty himself remarks in his 'Acknowledgements' (p. viii), '... there will certainly be errors in a study such as this, so much of which consists of material never before published, or even examined. But I shall take my chances with the mistakes, in the hope that they will stimulate further discussion and lead to better truth'. We can only applaud these sentiments, congratulate Doty on his ground-breaking work so far and look forward to seeing, in the pages of this journal and elsewhere, the further discussion that Doty invites and which his book should do so much to stimulate.

RITA MCLEAN AND DAVID SYMONS.

*The Gold Sovereign*, second edition by Michael A. Marsh

This edition is superior to the original. It contains more in-depth historical background, very good plates and more importantly, the listing has been updated. The first edition published in 1980, coincidentally or not, appeared during the Gold Boom. The number of collectors of gold coins increased in this period and *The Gold Sovereign* became a useful pocket reference for collectors, auctioneers and dealers alike.

Without doubt the sovereign is an extremely popular coin. There are still many surprises as new pieces turn up due to the fact that being one of the most predominant gold coins, trusted internationally, vast hoards still languish in bank vaults and sales like the 'Douro' Cargo sold at Spink in November, 1996 reveal further new varieties. If one includes die numbers there are now over 800 different pieces. This argues well for a regular update by the author.

*The Gold Sovereign, second edition,* is a worthy successor to its established forerunner. It affords the collector, whether novice or expert, a well researched and interesting account of the scenes behind the production of the coin, in particular from the Royal Mint. The reader is now given a brief introduction to the origin of the sovereign in 1489. Within the preamble to each reign the book has been updated, revising current trends and describing in detail new varieties which have come on to the market. Mr Marsh offers the collector his opinion on the rarity of certain pieces and the difficulty in obtaining them, together with prices realised in various auction sales.

There is some background to events and personalities at the Royal Mint in connection with sovereign production. Mr Marsh is eminently readable, helping to inform the new collector especially. The book is heavily devoted to currency coins but does refer to and illustrate some of the later proof issues including the 1953 sovereign. There
is also an interesting section on related items such as sovereign holders - scales and weights, which has been updated with further plates.

Mr Marsh also discusses the problem of forgeries which are prolific in this series. Most forgeries emanate from the Middle East. Fortunately, many of these are crude productions. However, it would be helpful to point the inexperienced collector in the direction of a reputable dealer for guidance and advice, usually freely given, illustrations of spurious pieces would also have been welcomed.

Typographical errors are few, the most obvious (and amusing) being on p. 33, where a 1863 sovereign, die 827, is recorded as turning up in a hoard in Huddersfield in 1654! Throughout the book the author discusses relative rarities and includes a rarity rating in the list. Although rarity is at best subjective, there are some serious anomalies. Many of which I have mentioned below. However, most of these come in the 20th century and in general the rarity guide is reasonably accurate.

1897 St. George Reverse - London (R4). I consider this to be a very high rating. Probably R2 is more realistic. In a new section in the book, dealing with the Sydney branch sovereigns with the Australia reverse, in particular the rarity of 1855 and 1856 is in my opinion considerably underestimated; relatively these terms should be R3 and R2 respectively. He states that the Edward VII 1908 Canada sovereign is of equal rarity to that of the 1899; this is incorrect and the 1908 turns up with great regularity and should be considered R3. Again, under Canada he gives a high rarity to 1913 and 1914 sovereigns; most will agree that these are not rarities and even now the 1916 sovereign is certainly more common than R5. Perhaps one of the most obvious anomalies is the 1920 Sydney sovereign which gives R3; I have only seen 2 of these coins in 30 years. This is substantiated by the example sold in Spink Auction no. 90 in 1992. Lot 438, for a world record price of £104,000.00 net of commission, and yet the 1926 Sydney is given a higher rating of R4, made £16,000.00 in the same sale. There are several other examples that one could quote but this is perhaps not the right forum. It would have been advisable perhaps for Mr Marsh to have asked dealers for their opinion in this respect rather than rely on auction catalogues and lists alone, as many of these pieces have been sold privately.

There is one other matter relating to the following group of coins: Victoria, young head, St. George reverse sovereigns, initials Large B.P. 1880 London, 1881 Melbourne, 1882 Melbourne, 1887 Melbourne, 1880 Sydney, 1881 Sydney and 1882 Sydney.

I have never seen these coins and they are all given a generally scarce rating. I am not entirely sure of their existence. I am prepared to be corrected, but surely a hoard of 30,000 pieces such as the 'Douro' cargo, where every coin was inspected, would have revealed pieces, bearing in mind their relatively common rating: it did not do so. This is also borne out by the fact that these pieces are not included in the new Spink Standard Catalogue, which reveals more varieties for this series than the author publishes, revealing in fact 2 reverse types: horse with long tail and short tail; and 2 obverses, with W.W. on a broad truncation and WW buried in narrow truncation, along with small B.P. and no B.P. There are a considerable number of die link permutations within this group.

In conclusion I would like to congratulate the author for a very useful book which I am confident will prove popular with all sovereign collectors. It is extremely readable and has excellent plates. The reviewer hopes that Mr Marsh will find the foregoing criticisms constructive and of assistance to him in future editions.

MARK RASMUSSEN

British Copper Tokens 1811–1820, including those of Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, by Paul and Bente Withers (Llanfyllin, 1999). 264 pages. £75. ISBN 0 9516671 5 7.

The first review in the very first volume of this Journal, by the catalyst of the foundation of our society, W.J. Andrew, was a short appraisal of W.J. Davis's The Nineteenth Century Token Coinage. It was a book, Andrew remarked, 'likely to be accepted as the standard work for years to come on the subject matter treated'. Although superseded in respect of the nineteenth-century silver series by Dalton's catalogue in 1922 - augmented by Waters' notes of 1935 and Mays' lively contextual survey of 1991 - Davis's pioneering study has maintained the authority on the copper tokens for almost a century, probably far exceeding even Andrew's expectations. Until now that is. For, while 'Davis' will still be important for students of early eighteenth-century Irish tokens, 'Highland' bracteates and the few nineteenth-century private pieces, its treatment of the main run of copper tokens produced for the British Isles between 1811 and 1820 has been effectively replaced by the book under review.

Paul and Bente Withers declare that their intention had been to produce a revised edition of Davis's work but the frustrations of the original - dependent, as it is, on verbal and not always accurate descriptions of its material - led them to abandon this plan, to restrict their catalogue to the 'commercial' copper tokens of the Regency period and to 're-write completely, illustrating fully, and adding "new" information' that they and others had 'unearthed'. What has resulted from their labours, despite their honest disclaimer of completeness, is a comprehensive compendium which will stand the test of time. Virtually all the tokens they have catalogued are represented by excellent, even-toned photographs. Sufficient in themselves to distinguish most minor varieties, these reproductions are backed up by meticulous descriptions and, where further explanation of detail is thought necessary, the occasional line-drawing. The authors have supplied diameters - sensibly, since the photographs are not always exactly 1:1 - as well as the average weights of the tokens they have examined, their die-axes and edge types. These last - over fifty of them - are defined and illustrated by enlargement in an appendix; and this is no trifling nicety since, as the Withers plausibly infer by reference to Thomason's known productions, a study of the groupings of these edges - as of the many die-links they also record - may eventually give us some insight into the presently unknown identities of the manufacturers of the bulk of the series.

Incorporated into an expanded list of 'British Copper Tokens 1811–1820, including those of Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, by Paul and Bente Withers (Llanfyllin, 1999). 264 pages. £75. ISBN 0 9516671 5 7.

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Non-Local Tokens' are the anomalous, but muted, varieties that Davis interspersed among his authenticated tokens elsewhere as well as Picard's 'Wellington' tokens which the authors, on reasonably good grounds, suggest never circulated in the Pennants; it would be interesting to know whether any of the latter have ever been found there. Also retained in this section, and augmented, are all the halfpennies that are now thought to have been specifically struck or exported for Canadian use and on which the authors raise some apposite queries.

Some collectors may regret the abandonment of Davis's ordering of the tokens by traditional county bar, as the Withers point out, the various changes in local authority nomenclature and boundaries since 1904 have made their listing alphabetically by town a more sensible arrangement, facilitating, too, the adoption of a practical 'running-number' system for the catalogue as a whole. Davis, in any case, did not invariably get his counties right, not least by putting Bristol, under Somerset and 'Glanclywego' under Denbighshire. But for those wedged to the pre-1974 'Davis' counties these are bracketed after the town name in the catalogue entries and set out in the concordance with 'Davis' (Appendix 3).

What does seem slightly eccentric is the decision to list those tokens where a town name is not so obvious under the name of the issuing company. The tokens of the British Copper Company and the Wiltmore Scythe Works, for instance, are so titled when, following the authors' general scheme, it would surely have been more appropriate for them to have appeared under the respective branches of 'Walthamstow' and 'Dudley' (or 'Netherton') although, to be fair, they are cross-referenced from these places. Au contraire, the Withers, though properly doubting the attribution, have chosen to retain Davis's eponymous location of Sedbury in Gloucestershire (or the 'Sedbury Iron Works'). Sharp was forced to relegate this delightful example of the die-sinker's art to his pennies 'not payable by individuals' along with the 'TIC' issue which we now know, thanks to the late George Boon's researches, to have been a genuine piece of the Tredgar Iron Company. That the Withers have so far been unable to resolve the 'Sedbury' conundrum is something of a personal disappointment to the present reviewer who had hoped to be disabused of his unhappily-held notion that this penny must be a spurious production of Thomas Halliday. (Two of the reviewer's own specimens, by the way, are overstuck on Jersey Bank tokens, not mentioned by the authors as re-used flans).

But these are not important considerations. British Copper Tokens is the result of exact and committed study, and, standing in stark contrast to so much that has been written about eighteenth- and nineteenth-century tokens in recent years, it is, in all its essentials, a catalogue raisonné of the mainstream of the latter series.

Like any such work of reference worth its salt it seeks to set its subject in its contemporary social and economic context and to provide a foundation for a re-evaluation of the series as a whole. The wealth of information furnished on issuers, die-sinkers and manufacturers, some from secondary authorities but a great deal more from contemporary sources, will enable the student to correct the misconceptions and discard the irrelevancies derived from the humber accumulated by industrious but less fastidious commentators in the past; like Samuel, for instance, whose handwork seems to have been so much in vogue over the past few decades and whose pronouncements have gained a fallacious respectability founded on mere repetition. Sharp, quite rightly, is recognised as probably the most reliable index to the engravers of the series even if, having, as he himself stressed, 'no guide to direct his steps' and working from a limited collection, he is by no means infallible.

The introductory profiles of engravers and manufacturers who have left so little personal record of themselves will be pivotal to further research. Halliday — like his predecessor Hancock of a generation earlier — is now shown as unlikely to have struck tokens on his own account, and the number of actual manufacturers to have been far greater than Davis credited: at least seventeen or eighteen to his two or three, if Halliday is discounted. Again, this would accord with what we are finding out about the eighteenth century where the Westwoods, Whitmore and perhaps Phipson are already upsetting the scenario presented by Charles Pyle and his coadjutors.

The rest of the book's introductory material — essays on the historical setting of the tokens, on their dies and manufacture, coupled with a biographical sketch of Davis and commendably sound advice to collectors — is all that it should be: thorough, well-written and with a lightly-worn command of its subject.

There are irritations over presentation: the biography of Davis meanders through the book like a stream that has lost its way, some 'Suggestions for Reading' have implanted themselves in the body of the catalogue, peculiarly divorced from the 'Bibliography' proper, a significant chunk of the introduction to 'British Non-Local Tokens' on page 182 is replicated from the 'Non-Local' section on page 26 while John Williams's Cornish 'Accommodation' pennies are strangely separated from his 'Scorrier House' pieces by the quite unconnected issues of the rich West Wheal Fortune Mine of which perhaps rather more might have been said.

But these criticisms do not affect one's overall conclusion that the Withers' new work will deservedly be accepted as the modern enchiridion to nineteenth-century copper tokens, a corpus unlikely to be extended other than by the odd new discovery, and a springboard for further research to which the authors have enthusiastically pointed the way. The book is inevitably expensive but, as Andrew said of 'Davis' all those years ago, it is 'altogether better value than even the tokens were that it so carefully describes'.

D.W. DYKES

1 To be fair to Davis, Dalton and Hamer, and subsequently Dalton per se — a Bristolian himself — also set the city in Somerset. Samuel and Williamson had earlier given it to Gloucestershire, the county with which Bristol is commonly associated, and more forgivable since its historic centre lay mainly to the north of the Avon.
Convict Love Tokens: the leaden hearts the convicts left behind. Edited by Michele Field and Timothy Millett. Published by the Wakefield Press, South Australia, 1998. 128 pages. Laminated card covers, illustrated throughout, eight colour plates. £12.99

This book is an example of a work produced primarily to accompany an exhibition. Of course, this type of publication is not new, for one can think of catalogues produced for permanent museum exhibitions connected with coins, medals and other distinct numismatic fields. Rather, the fact that the amount of literature on these engraved tokens is indeed sparse tends me to believe that this work may well in the future be seen to be a major reference work in its own right.

In 1998 the first showing of Timothy Millett's (TM) collection was exhibited at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Australia. It then went to Perth and Hobart. In early 1999, formed largely of the British Museum and TM's collections, the exhibition was put on show at the BM and then at the Museum of Law.

The book has an introduction, five chapters of essays, each contributed by different authors and on differing aspects, with the whole chosen to produce an even-handed overall account, a catalogue of known convict love tokens, and finally a list of the names portrayed on the tokens. There are plenty of illustrations, which one would hope for in a specialist publication of this type. In the main, black and white photographs are used where the host piece is receptive to reproduction. Also, there are a few colour plates and many quite excellent line drawings by the artist Nick Griffiths.

The historical perspective is important to comprehend when looking at these tokens. Judicial sentence of transportation was made for offences against the State which today would only command a fiscal fine or even the more dubious 'community service'.

The opening chapter - 'Leaden Hearts' is an illustrated descriptive analysis of the backbone of TM's collection, some seventy pieces purchased from Dennis Vorley, and we learn how he came to this field. These pieces are a social development of the giving of love tokens as mementoes or keepsakes during the seventeenth century, possibly influencing the idea of producing a token whilst awaiting transportation.

All of these pieces are extremely rare. Evidence suggests that production was commonplace between 1815 and 1845, and of the 300 seen by TM, less than ten show a direct reference to transportation. The 1797 Cartwheel penny was unpopular with the public because of its heavy weight, but it was popular with convicts because, as it was made of relatively soft copper and was large for a coin piece (36 mm diameter), it served as an ideal base for rubbing down, and there was enough space for the convicts to engrave their messages of affection and farewell before they were transported to Australia to serve their sentences. TM explains that the messages on the tokens range from basic stipping with something like a nail or pin to high engraver's art, executed with a graving tool. The engravings on the tokens can be roughly classified into four groups: 1 - executed by a professional or trained hand, 2 - appear to be copies of group 1, 3 - less gifted, of limited technique, but good amateurs showing thin guide lines, 4 - least expert, and rather crude in interpretation.

Was the clearly high standard of skill demonstrated in the engraving of some of these tokens put to good (honest) use in Australia? At present, there is no evidence that the makers of these pieces continued to produce work in metal, either as jewellers or craftsmen in metal. TM suggests that some tokens are so similar in their style of execution that they may well have been made to order. I surmise that possibly, in early nineteenth-century Australia, there was a demonstrable lack of a developed middle class, and thus little potential in a market for refined goods.

The following chapters outline the socio-economic backdrop to these tokens. If this book had been produced outside the numismatic orbit, then I would have preferred to see them placed at the beginning as introductory, then the main historicos-catalogue following on. However, one must realise that this book, which will become a reference work on love tokens, was produced to accompany an exhibition, so that the emphasis and approach relates to that in the first instance.

Michael Flynn, who contributed the chapter on 'Dickensian Characters', informs us that from 1788 (North America no longer being available) to 1868, in excess of 160,000 souls were transported, including not only men and women, but children too.

In Tom Gretton's chapter on 'Last Dying Speech and Confession', he discusses the tokens' social connections with the popular catchpenny prints of the times, evoking public executions and popular art. He gives a good summing up of these tokens '... these convicts worked or paid to give material form to what effectively were their last words in the world they knew'. However, I must disagree with one of his submissions, that the erasure of the King's head in preparation for engraving was in some way a protest against the State which was about to place the convict into such oblivion. I find this statement rather fanciful, as we cannot possibly know this to be true, and in any case, the mechanics of production would demand a reasonably smooth host coin in order to serve as an engraved love token, whatever the original design or portrait. These tokens are indeed pieces of social history, but the regular coinage was, after all, ideally to hand.

We are reminded that convict love tokens are as much part of Australian history as tokens of remembrance. In his contribution on 'Memory and tokens of love', Paul Donnelly of the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney states that the perilous long journey by sea combined with the expense of passage made the visibility of return to the homeland upon termination of sentence, a distinctly unlikely event, thus '... their past loves and lives were frozen in time'. He writes that 'what convict love tokens share with other keepsakes is an attempt to cope with a common feature of life: absence and separation from loved ones'. To numismatists, these tokens can appear to be delightful, interesting, crude or merely medallic-like mementoes. However, Mr Donnelly puts them in their historical context alongside mourning jewellery, enamelled coins and other keepsakes like suspended locks of interwoven hair. The phrase 'When this you see remember me' was commonly used not only on the tokens, but also on commercial items of creamware and as tattoos, which firmly associates these items with the working class.
‘Known Convict Tokens’, the basic catalogue section of the book, has been compiled by TM and Peter Lane, President of the Numismatic Society of South Australia. It is a chronological listing of tokens recorded so far, by date beginning with 1780. Where there is no name or year, they have been placed after 1856. There is an acknowledgement to the collections referred to, and all tokens are stated as having the 36 mm Cartwheel penny as the host coin unless otherwise noted, e.g. the regal George III half-penny, George III and IV pence, Cartwheel twopenny, and tokens.

I found the historical notes relating to each piece particularly informative. Judging by some of the detail that has been unearthed relating to the originators of the tokens, they have evidently been painstakingly researched. The difficulty in researching lies with matching a name with an identifiable person. Parliamentary papers are a good source, but there is still much genealogical work to be done, as we are informed in the Introduction. In Britain, there is a very strong and growing hobby devoted to researching our ancestors. In the writer’s belief and experience the journals and newsletters of the local Family History Societies are a wealth of knowledge and research yet to be fully appreciated and seriously tapped by researchers and collectors of socio-economic and socio-historical pieces such as tokens and medals of all types for information on surname distribution, occupations, commercial undertakings, as well as listings of all kinds of activity on life as it was lived. In the future, the authors hope to expand the reference section and the section on biographies. Finally, there is an alphabetical listing of names included at the back.

Overall, this work is a neatly packaged and presentable book. There is a wealth of information contained within each page, and in this reviewer’s opinion, represents the most laudable and attractive approach when writing about a numismatic subject – its relationship to the socio-historical background.

ANTHONY GILBERT


The publication in 1998 of the third volume in the series was a welcome addition to those issued in 1993 and 1997 and the fact that they have appeared out of chronological order is proof positive of the difficulties and amount of work involved in trying to compile a comprehensive catalogue of medals concerning British monarchs during this very prolific period. The authors are to be congratulated on their decision to tackle this daunting task thus providing a valuable adjunct to British Historical Medals, which of necessity excluded many of the medals now listed in these three volumes.

The difficulties in producing books such as these, which are invaluable works of reference, are immediately apparent. It is probably true to say that if one collects objects which generally cost very little, one is reluctant to spend a large amount of money on a relevant work of reference. The difficulty of finding a publisher under such circumstances is obvious. It would probably also have been uneconomic to have had the manuscript professionally set by the printers. Photographs, too, can be expensive to produce and greatly add to the cost of a book. As a result, the authors were faced with the task of composing it themselves: medal collectors and numismatists generally will be glad that they found themselves equal to the problem.

Volume 2 in the series was the first to appear and the numbering system here is based (as it is in the subsequent volumes) on the volume number being the first digit. The remaining digits follow in due order whilst leaving space for additional medals to be added should they appear. The medals themselves are catalogued in alphabetical order of medallist or manufacturer except for the first, which is the official medal for the occasion by the Royal Mint. The arrangement of volume 3 follows the same pattern, but volume 6, which has to deal with a number of occasions, lists the medals in chronological order. Unsigned medals are listed at the end of each catalogue.

Each medal is comprehensively described and the various sizes and metals in which they are to be found are also noted. An estimation of the rarity is given through eight grades ranging from VC (very common) to U (unique). An attempt has also been made to place a value on each piece. Any price guide in a catalogue of this nature can only be something of a guess estimate, but the authors have considerable experience in the matter and the results may not be too far out.

The illustrations in all three volumes leave something to be desired, but coins and medals are notoriously difficult to photograph and even a defective photograph is better than none at all. Those in volume 6 are generally better than those in the other two volumes.

Volume 6 also has a comprehensive listing of the objects issued by Geoffrey Hearn and struck by John Pinches Ltd in 1954 bearing the portrait of Edward VIII. It was good to see these accurately described as 'fantasy crowns' thus, perhaps, making away with the aura of respectability that these pieces seem to have acquired over the years. Subsequent issues of fantasy pieces were published by the Pobjoy Mint and Richard Lobel and these, too, are comprehensively listed.

Throughout the three volumes there are occasional reproductions of documents, advertisements for medals and photographs of members of the Royal Family. The latter illustrations are, perhaps, superfluous and in the opinion of your reviewer, add nothing to the value of the books. What is of particular use and which is to be found in no other numismatic work on the subject are the listings, in volumes 2 and 3 of the registered design numbers. These numbers appear on some Victorian medals and were used to protect the designs for a minimum of five years. Thanks to the authors it is now possible to attribute to a manufacturer or medallist some medals which were hitherto unidentifiable.

Each volume has indexes of makers, designers, die cutters and publishers, a general index and an index of obverse legends. Volumes 2 and 3 also contain indexes of medals of uncertain attribution and the aforementioned
index of Registered design numbers. What the volumes lack, however, are indexes of reverse legends. A complicated and perhaps lengthy index to compile, but the books feel incomplete without it and such an index would add considerably to the usefulness of the work. Perhaps the omission will be rectified in future volumes.

These books have much to commend them, not only for the number of medals listed therein which would otherwise probably not have been published, but also for the amount of detail that the authors have given for die varieties and mules.

The authors are to be congratulated on the production of three useful books and it is to be hoped that the publication of the remaining five volumes will not be long delayed.

LAURENCE BROWN


Described as 'the Newton of the atom' and indisputably one of the greatest scientists of the twentieth century Ernest Rutherford was also a patriotic New Zealander. It was perhaps with this in mind that his family decided, after his death in 1937, to gift the thirty six medals accumulated by him (including a Nobel prize and the Order of Merit) to the University of Canterbury in Christchurch New Zealand.

There they lay, largely forgotten, in the University strongroom until rescued by Mark Stocker who, with assistance from Vickie Heamshaw, has published a catalogue of the medals with an introduction which admirably fulfils its aim of 'locating the medals in Rutherford's life, in art history and in numismatics'. All the medals are illustrated, some in colour, and Stocker has brought together a useful account of the creation of some of the more recent awards in the group.

Less attention is given to the curious phenomenon represented by these medals which are, in the end, a group of objects, neither useful nor for the most part particularly beautiful, probably seldom displayed during the recipient's lifetime and unseen for many years after his death, but nevertheless quite typical of the tangible expressions of esteem accrued by many a famous person.

This adherence to traditional forms and to classical iconography, entirely eschewing reference to the realities of twentieth century atomic science, tells us something about the way in which prestige was accrued to the society which Rutherford inhabited. The monetary value of objects (the group contains medals made from 46 oz of solid gold) tells us more. Rutherford himself referred to this in a letter to his wife about the Rumford Medal in 1904: 'I got my gold medal and it is a summer. It weighs 14 ozs and probably has £50 worth of gold in it ... It will be a good way of saving money as it can always be melted down into dollars when required'.

The fact that he wrote this more than half in jest suggests that it might be interesting to consider, in a wider context, such groups as evidence for continuity and change in attitudes towards ritual giving and reward: continuity that speaks of the close association of status with long established practice and change that has transformed eighteenth century practice, which centred on the intrinsic value and actual display of medals (and similar), into a twentieth century retreat from both.

MARK JONES