This volume of fifteen essays on Iron Age coinage is the outcome of a memorable and well-attended Oxford conference hosted by the Ashmolean Museum and the Institute of Archaeology in December 2001, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Celtic Coin Index. Several papers were the subject of lively debate and the varied ways in which people look at Celtic coins are reflected in the published selection, which divides into three broad groups. One is concerned mainly with the images on coins and their meaning, another sees the archaeological context in which coins are found as the most reliable guide to chronology and function, and the final group takes a more traditional numismatic approach which ultimately views the material in a historical framework. Philip de Jersey emphasizes in a cogent introduction how important it is for specialists with differing viewpoints to learn from each other, and provides an essential bibliography of books and articles published since the last major Oxford conference in 1989.

In the first of the iconographic studies Brigitte Fischer explores motifs on Gaulish coins related to wine, such as amphorae, vine leaves and bunches of grapes, and establishes that coins with these features are relatively late and that the tribes who struck them were located in Celtic rather than Belgic Gaul; the amphorae shown are nearly always older than those being imported at the time the coins were struck, which she sees as harking back to a 'golden age' of prosperity. With Miranda Aldhouse-Green's essay 'Metaphors, meaning and money' the interpretation of images becomes more controversial. No-one would deny that the surreal figures and animals on the mainly Gaulish coins she illustrates would have meant something to those who engraved them, but what, exactly? If we had any detailed knowledge of early Celtic religion and mythology we could no doubt say, but regrettably we do not. It may be true to say, for example, that a particular symbol-set was 'an empowering, authoritative emblem, spirit-currency that opened gateways between worlds' (p. 34), but then again, it may not, and there is no way of proving or disproving the many similar assertions. The paper by Mike Williams and John Creighton on shamanism and trance imagery takes this methodology to its ultimate conclusion, and sees evidence of shamanism, which we are told 'encompasses rather than replaces religion', in virtually all non-classical Gaulish and British coin design, which it is claimed features images related to various trance states. Within their own definition of the subject they cannot be wrong, for 'if we do adopt shamanism as a means of interpreting the past then nothing can fall outside of its influence' (p. 49). At times it is reminiscent of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Celtomania, with its signs, symbols and runaway over-interpretation; Stukeley, Prichard and Edward 'Celtic' Davies would have been proud of them.

Colin Haselgrove, in the first of the archaeologically-based studies, argues for an early second century BC start for Thorrock hoards, a good half century earlier than previously suspected. His evidence rests on three strands: the late third/early second century inception of their ultimate prototypes, Massiliot butter-bull pendants; an early second century start for the Paris basin copies; and finally a stratified example from excavations at Maiden Castle. The latter is from a phase that immediately precedes one assigned to c200-150 BC by archaeomagnetic dating, but it is worth noting that both phases 'were lacking in closely dateable material' (p. 21), and that all other archaeological contexts for Thorrock hoards suggest a somewhat later chronology. Haselgrove's second paper examines the impact of the Roman conquest on indigenous coinages in Belgic Gaul and southern Britain from the starting point that many issues assigned to the Gallic War by Colbert de Beaulieu and Scheuer are either earlier or later. In the case of cast pendants he is undoubtedly right, but with gold issues an over-eagerness to sever the link established by Scheuer between coinage and warfare may have led him astray. He refers to a post-Gallic War date for Vocans and Lucretia sisters of the Reni and the prolific Pottina gold of the Treveri, Viros sisters of the Nervii, and Cricrius and Roveca gold of the Suessiones and Meldi respectively, largely on the basis of 'general site associations' (pp. 98-9), while consigning a Pottina sister from Alésia, deposited no later than 52 BC, to a footnote (p. 110, n. 10). A fundamental problem he appears unwilling to address is that all the relevant Gaulish and British coinages are now locked into each other by hoard evidence, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to move individual series around to suit what is often quite vague archaeological evidence.

Mark Curteis's study of the distribution and ritual deposition of Iron Age coins in the South Midlands is admirably thorough, but the restricted study area he has chosen means that none of his distribution maps show the complete spread of any given series, making it difficult to draw any useful conclusions. He examines the contexts in which Iron Age coins in the region were buried and suggests that they are not randomly distributed around sites or concentrated in monumental areas but tended to enter archaeological deposits in a deliberate and votive way.

The majority of the foregoing studies have a common strand running through them: the assumption that Celtic coinage was intimately related to religious and ritual practices. It is left to Imogen Wellington to make this link explicit in her consideration of the role of Iron Age coinage in archaeological contexts, and she argues that silver and pottin in particular are found largely on
votive sites and therefore had a ritual function. While this is almost certainly true, there are obvious dangers in suggesting that the final resting place of a coin, possibly after many years of circulation, tells us very much about its previous uses, let alone the reason why it was struck.

In an important paper on Belgic coins in Britain Philip de Jersey looks at the distribution of over three hundred examples, excluding the main gold series, Gallo-Belgic A-C. Although many of these coins could have reached Britain in the hands of traders and the like, the remainder may indicate areas of Belgic settlement in the first century BC; concentrations in Kent and north of the Thames are no surprise in this respect, but the cluster of finds around Selsey and Chichester is outside the circulation area of the main gold imports and thus particularly significant, especially given the density of Armorican imports along the Hampshire and Dorset coast previously discussed by the author. This dovetails neatly with contrasting pieces by Van Arsdel and Rudd. The former reluctantly concedes that the Belgae in Hampshire, presumably a migrant group, and the Regni or Regni in West Sussex may have struck their own coinage, but plays devil's advocate with the evidence and is loathe to concede that the Atrebates were not in overall political control. It is left to Chris Rudd in his post-conference reply on the Belgae and Regni to state the obvious and say that the sheer number of new series along the south coast, admittedly known from very few coins in most cases, is not consistent with a single issuing authority. He also makes an impassioned plea for the retention of tribal names where the evidence allows it, and argues that the tribes of Britain had a longer and more stable history than we give them credit for. It is refreshing to see him cut through the hermeneutically closed world of archaeological thought, which has a tendency to deal with conflicts between excavated and historical evidence by ignoring the latter, and point out that the emperor is less than fully clothed.

Rainer Kretz tackles the chronology of Tasciovanos's silver coinage in a full discussion of this difficult series. The problem he faces is not just that of putting the sixteen known types in their approximate order but also establishing their relationship to the Sego and Dias issues, which also feature Tasciovanos's name. His sequencing of the main series, beginning with designs that are still heavily Celticized and ending with the more Romanized issues, is convincing, although as he points out, there are still areas of uncertainty such as the similarity between the bust on the B3 and E1 types. The only quibble is that it might have been useful to have photos in addition to the excellent line drawings. In an innovative study John Talbot examines the even more intractable Iceniian early face/horse series, which he divides into the Bury, Large Flan, Snettisham and Face/Horse B types. The Bury A series is clearly the earliest and to judge from reverses 9 and 10 (p. 219) may overlap with early Whaddon Chase gold and silver; after this several parallel regional issues appear and are succeeded in turn by a denominational coinage of units struck alongside Snettisham, Irstead and Freckenham gold. It is good to see every die and die link illustrated so clearly and the author's use of a graphics program to combine different images of the same die deserves to be widely adopted.

It is sad that Jeffrey May, who did so very much to further the study of Iron Age coinage, did not live to see the publication of this volume and with it his final article on the subject. He interprets what had previously been considered to be a Gallo-Belgic A or C die from Rotherwick, Hampshire as a coin weight, and suggests that it was used to weigh multiples of five Scheers Aa class 4b (Sills class 6) staters. Against this, however, are the small fragments of gold leaf adhering to it, more consistent with it having been used to strike plated forgeries. A further problem is that the mean weight he uses for class 4b, derived from only four examples with a very wide spread, is no longer accurate, and although a secondary function as a weight can by no means be ruled out the likelihood is that it is a forger's die similar to the Gallo-Belgic B die from Alton, Hants, barely ten miles away. In the final paper the Silsden, West Yorkshire hoard of Esuprasu, Cunobelin and Epaticcus staters is discussed by Gavin Edwards and Megan Dennis. They conclude that it was probably deposited after the Claudian invasion and suggest that together with late hoards from nearby Lightshilfe and Honley it betrays the presence of a last pocket of Coritciavian-held territory in the eastern Pennines that may have remained outside Roman military control for many years.

Philip de Jersey is to be congratulated on the editing and presentation of this impressive volume of studies, many of which represent significant advances on previous knowledge. But the hidden star of this volume is the Celtic Coin Index and its many contributors, without which several pieces could not have been written and which is increasingly transforming our view of the later Iron Age.

JOHN SILLS

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This is a substantial and very interesting book, but a most unusual one. In form it is a Festschrift to Miss Marion Archibald on her seventieth birthday, a warmly deserved tribute to a scholar and colleague who during her long and distinguished service in the Department of

1 de Jersey 1997.
2 Sills 2003, 133.
Coins and Medals established herself as a central figure in British numismatics both for the rigour of her scholarship and for her admirable personal qualities. In content it was designed to be, in the words of its editors, 'a volume with a distinct focus and relatively broad appeal that reflected Marion's long standing support for an integrated approach to numismatic and monetary studies, archaeology and other aspects of historical research.' It is not, however a typical Festschrift, in that the authors invited to contribute belong to three principal groups: close colleagues from the British Museum itself; overseas scholars with whom Miss Archibald has collaborated; and scholars of a younger generation who have enjoyed her encouragement and guidance.

The broad theme of the book is the monetary history of England and its northern neighbours from the fifth century to the thirteenth. Both before and after this period the direction of English economic and political engagement was focused via the south-east towards the European mainland, first in the context of the Roman Empire, later within the expanding and increasingly integrated economy of continental Europe. During the long centuries between the centre of gravity was often more northerly and it is towards England's involvement in the monetary history of this North Sea world that most of the contributions to this book are directed.

The thirty articles in this book of nearly eight hundred pages have been divided between four main sections entitled 'After Rome (fifth to seventh centuries)', 'The Northern World: an Age of Transition (seventh to tenth centuries)', 'England and Scandinavia (tenth to thirteenth centuries)', and 'The Kingdom of England and its Neighbours (tenth to early thirteenth centuries)'. Room has also been found for contributions on related topics, of personal interest to Miss Archibald, such as pecking (Kilger), coin-brooches (Leaty) and lead tokens (Egan). Because of the great number of papers and wide subject matter, many of the contributors will be familiar names to English numismatists, but several will not.

Included in the first section is a major paper by Abdy and Williams cataloguing hoards and single finds from c.410-c.675, the number of which is testimony to the impact of metal detecting on our knowledge of monetary circulation in a period from which relatively few hoards have been found. This material enables Williams, in an article on 'The Circulation and Function of Coinage in Conversion-Period England c. AD 580-675', to put forward the view that there are greater signs of monetary function than have hitherto been generally assumed. In addition to these important monetary studies there are shorter but valuable pieces relating more directly to the coins themselves, including Blackburn's discussion of two new types of gold shilling and Gannon's comments on imitation and type transfer in the ensuing early Anglo-Saxon silver coinages.

In the second section the main numismatic items are an authoritative paper by Smart on Scandinavian moneyers' names on ninth-century issues of the reigns of Athelstan to Edgar, and Pirie's overview of Northumbrian coinage from c.670 to 867. Miss Pirie sadly did not live to see this work in print, but it will serve as a valuable introduction to the major account of pre-Viking Northumbrian coinage that she published in 1996, and despite its elliptical style it may assist towards an understanding of her sometimes idiosyncratic approach to classification. More straightforward is Jonsson's study of the pre-reform coinage of Edgar, from a geographical angle, in which he considers the accumulating evidence for patterns of monetary circulation and explores the administrative implications of the regional variation of types. Looking abroad,Coupland's contribution discusses hoards from ninth-century Frisia, which now include two important Viking treasures from Noord-Holland with coins, ingots, hussarsilver and other items in a manner comparable to that of the Scandinavian hoards from the British Isles.

The third section is chiefly devoted to coin migration in the Viking Age. For the eastern Baltic Talvio uses the material in volumes 50 (St Petersburg) and 51 (Estonia) of the Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles to draw parallels and contrasts with volume 25 (Finland), while long articles by Metcalf and Moesgaard discuss the processes and routes by which vast quantities of English and German coin reached the Northern lands. Technical numismatics are represented here by Malmqvist's comments on die-cutting styles in Scandinavian coins of the eleventh century in the light of the 1954 find at Rone on Gotland. The two Ribe hoards from the 1240s, consisting mainly of English Short Cross coins, are a chronological outlier in terms of this volume, but Jensen's review serves to emphasize the way in which over a period of two hundred years peaceful commerce had become the principal agency for international movements of coin in northern Europe.

The components of the fourth section are diverse by both topic and geography, and include three long papers of considerable significance. One is Allen's reassessment of the volume of English currency in the late Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods, a notoriously difficult area in which subjective assumptions and estimates abound, but the importance of which is self-evident; and Allen's appendices summarizing coin hoards from the 970s to 1158 will be of value for many purposes. Another is Symons's admirable study of the moneymen of the small but not minor mint of the county borough of Worcester during the Norman period. The third is a comprehensive survey by Cook of the monetary system of the Angevin territories in France, which contains a valuable table of the contents of relevant hoards. Beshy's account of currency in Wales down to the Short Cross period also contains appendices of hoards and finds (up to 1158), and usefully brings up to date the record of known types of the Norman period from mints in Wales. The much slighter monetary story of the Channel Islands is recalled by Sebire who notes that they remained under the English crown when Philip Augustus of France won the duchy of Normandy from King John, and that when an English element thereafter was added to the Norman currency that had prevailed before 1204 it seems to have consisted mainly of cut halfpence (each equivalent to two deniers of Anjou or Tourain). Archaeology is related to coins and coin finds (a particular interest of Miss Archibald) in Vince's contribution on Lincoln, while
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historical evidence is adduced by Crafter in an account of the removal of the minting rights of the Abbot of St. Augustine's at Canterbury by Henry II.

This book is a significant addition to the existing literature on the coinage and currency of its period. It is less a numismatic work than a contribution to monetary history, but it will also be an essential point of reference for many of its lists of hoards and finds. The book is expensive, but that is mainly because it is very large. The standard of contributions is high, and no serious student of the subjects covered should be without it.

LORD STEWARTBY


For many detectorists who find a sceat, the task of identifying it is daunting, and their natural curiosity about its date, mint-place, affinities, and general significance remains unsatisfied. This book is intended to make the task of identification easier for them, by categorizing the designs that occur on the sceattas and grouping them all the animals in one section, all the birds in another, and so on. If the finder can see an animal on his coin, he should look in that section, where hopefully he will find another specimen closely like it. Under this system, the same coin is illustrated twice, in different sections, according to its obverse and reverse designs respectively.

The photographic illustrations, which are of coins in Mr Abramson's own impressive collection, are very good. They are all X1.5 enlargements and occupy pages 37–131.

The structure of the book is rather complicated, and Mr Abramson's scheme of numbering is all his own, but every conceivable help is offered to the reader. There is, in the first place, a long summary (pp. 5–35), in which the material is rearranged following the series classification worked out in the reviewer's Thrymsas and Sceattas. Then there is a 'Tracking List', to guide the reader around the main text; a concordance of BMCH/Hill/Stewart series type numbers against Rigold/Metcalf series and types; and, importantly for the scholar, a table headed 'Cross References', which is one of two places where the provenances of the illustrated specimens are given.

Other useful aids are thoughtfully provided, e.g. a glossary; a runic alphabet and lists of runic inscriptions; illustrated comparisons with Roman, Celtic, and other sources of the designs, tables of kings and archbishops with their dates; illustrations of known forgeries; and wise advice on treasure trove, with a list of names and addresses of all the regional finds liaison officers of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. All this is 'topped and tailed' by a Preface, Historical Background, Introduction, and (finally) an Epilogue – all of which will reward the reader. There is, all told, a fair bit of duplication, but one can live with that. The book amounts to a thorough, well-rounded and thoughtful presentation, and it deserves to do well, both now and into the future.

For the more experienced numismatist, who will scarcely need to have their hand held in quite this way, there is a feast of interesting and important specimens: fresh meat. Tony Abramson's collection is already so rich (or rather was already, at the point of publication, for it is steadily growing) that a photographic record of it is by way of becoming a necessary work of reference. There are dozens if not scores of specimens to which attention deserves to be drawn. Here are just a few of them: page 38, no. P915, a Type 30/Series N 'mule'; page 39, nos X200, X300n and X800, imitative Woden-monsters, of which more are a welcome addition to the corpus; page 40, nos Q505 and Q454, important specimens from very early in Series Q; page 41, nos K/N5 and K/N6, welcome additions to a rare hybrid type; page 42, no. Q430, an extremely rare Type 43; page 45, no. Q100, a derivative of the unique variety with a bust of Christ copied from the solidus of Justinian II; page 47, a nestful of Tony's 'fledglings'; page 50, no. Qr10, an excessively rare 'two doves' type, this specimen found at Oxford; page 54, nos J220 and J230, two clear specimens of Type 36 with interesting torc-like beaked creatures and, on the obverse, a figure of eight serpent added to the basic design; page 64, no. T150, a Series T with what looks like a Fleur-de-lis added below the 'porcupine' ('elaborate candelaebrum, arabesque, or anchor symbol'); page 65, nos R018 and R02a, two interesting specimens of the very rare eclectic group with rossettes added on the obverse (and here, also a quincaux on the reverse); page 71, nos F100, F120 and F200, three choice, well-centred specimens of Series F; page 79, nos W200, W205, 220, 230a and 230b, a dazzling, varied handful of Series W with almost all the rarities; page 81, no. Ca5, the excessively rare seated ruler of Series L, Type 13 (but no hawk) linked with a C ARP obverse (I); page 89, no. E700, the rare SEDE or AEEE type; and on the same page, the even more interesting Cx21, page 90, no. E650, the intriguing Aylesbury find of what now seems to be a late primary or very early secondary porcupine, var. G4-related; page 94, no. A050, the Bishopstone specimen of Type A1, reading TIC (not TIC) and extremely scarce; page 96, nos. Rq10, runes interspersed with pellets, page 111, no. 1210, a novel reverse type linked with the same figure-of-eight serpent mentioned above. And all this is merely a Baedeker's 'must-see' list for a quick visit. There are many more choice specimens of more familiar types. The book is, clearly, an essential tool for sceatta research. Just for the sake of tempering what would otherwise be one hundred per cent praise, one may say that Mr Abramson's interpretation of the iconography of the sceattas is occasionally a touch imaginative, and that modifications to a recognized scheme of classification ought only to be made with due consideration and argument. Otherwise chaos will result.

That so many highly interesting new coins should have turned up, largely within the last ten years, takes the breath away. It is also a bit alarming to consider that if the crème de la crème is so rich, the volume of run-of-the-mill/ downright tatty finds must have been enormous - and that many of them are not getting recorded. One is less sanguine than one was in the 1980s of harvesting a random sample of all sceatta
finds, when randomness is so necessary in a database for the monetary historian. That throws one back on the handful of sites from where it is certain that everything has been faithfully recorded. Probably these will increasingly have to be the anchor-points against which the annual crop of new single finds is assessed.

D.M. METCALF

REFERENCES

BMC. See Keary 1887.
BNJ 26, 251–79.
BNJ 27, 1–38.
BNJ 47, 21–30.


As its title implies this is truly a history of the abbey and mint of Bury St Edmunds in the early Middle Ages, for Dr Eaglen traces the history of the abbey from its earliest days and looks at the creation and operation of a mint there in its full historical context.

The growth of great abbeys in the middle ages, wealthy and endowed with great estates, is of significance not just because they were focuses for the contemplative and spiritual life, but also because they became major centres for trade, learning and politics. They were a vital part of western European development. Their influence in their region could be considerable and the appointment of an abbot became a consideration of the state as a whole, and indeed was increasingly a bone of contention between the king and the pope, whose confirmation was a necessity. Bury St Edmunds was such a place.

Legend has it that a monastery was founded at Beadericesworth by King Sigebert of East Anglia in the seventh century. His ninth-century successor, King Eadmund, was martyred by the Danes in 869, but his remains were not brought to Beadericesworth until about 900. We arrive at surer ground in the 1040s, when Edward the Confessor granted to the Benedictine monastery founded there by Cnut the benefits from, and jurisdiction over, eight and a half hundreds (which came to be known as the Liberty of Saint Edmund and which firmly established the abbey’s wealth). In the meantime, and probably in the late tenth or early eleventh centuries, Beadericesworth had become known first as ‘St Edmund’s place at Beadericesworth’, then as ‘St Edmunds-bury’, and finally as Bury St Edmunds, Bury for short.

The abbey of St Edmunds lies in a naturally defensible position on a piece of land where two rivers join, and a small town grew up there to service its requirements and to benefit from its presence. As time progressed the town was fortified, thus affording further inducement for living and trading in its shelter. The Domesday survey indicates that its permanent population in 1087 was perhaps 1,500 to 3,000 persons. In the rich agricultural lands of East Anglia it acquired a regional economic importance which, taken together with the political importance that came from its endowments, made the abbot a man of national as well as local significance, and it is not surprising that a mint came to be established there.

Dr Eaglen reviews in detail the evidence for the early operation of a mint at Bury St Edmunds and, after careful consideration, rejects it as a mint for the St Edmund memorial coinage and for the Anglo-Saxon kings before the time of Edward the Confessor. That a mint operated in the time of this last king is uncontested for we have extant his charter from late 1065 granting Abbot Baldwin a moneyer. But even more convincing are the surviving coins, all struck by the moneyer Morcere. The charter of 1065 cannot have been the first, for coins are known of BMC Anglo-Saxon types ii, v, vii, ix, xi and xiii. The earliest of these types is attributed by Seaby to 1048–50, which records well enough with the king’s grant of lands earlier in the 1040s.

Dr Eaglen does not confine himself narrowly to the activities of the Bury mint alone. He also enters into discussion on the national implications of changes to the coinage where they impinge on the Bury mint. In this section he considers the implications of renovatio in the context of the enhancement of the weight of penceies by about one-third during the course of the issue of the Expanding Cross type (1050–3), possibly in 1051, and the apparent short-lived reduction to something near the old weight with the Facing Bust type (1062–5), prior to a return to the heavier weight with the Pyramids type (1065–6). Dr Eaglen argues that these fluctuations indicate that penceies must have been generally accepted by tale since such manipulations would have been self defeating had they been received by weight. The Pyramids type, however, is not found from Bury, possibly because of the death of Abbot Leofstan in 1065 and the delay attendant on the installation of Abbott Baldwin due to the political events of 1066.

In this section Dr Eaglen also compares Bury with other ecclesiastical mints, noting that Bury was unique in that it normally had a single moneyer, who was administered by the abbot through his sacrist, whereas in other ecclesiastical centres, mostly bishoprics, there were several moneyers administered by royal officials, one or more of whom might have operated for the profit of the bishop.

\textsuperscript{3} Seaby 1955–57.
There are no known coins from Bury of Harold II and Dr Eaglen divides the period from the Norman Conquest to 1279 into chapters covering logical periods: William I and II; Henry I; Stephen; Henry II; Tealby coinage; the Short Cross coinage of Henry II; Richard, John and the early years of Henry III; and the Long Cross coinage extending into the reign of Edward I. In each case he commences with a consideration of the historical factors influencing the activities of the abbey and its response to these. He then considers the coinage of the period as a whole, and against this he looks at the activity of the Bury mint and records the known varieties of coins issued.

Abbot Baldwin, who came from Chartres and who had been installed by Edward the Confessor in 1065, remained in office under William I and II. He acted as physician to all these kings and this personal connection was undoubtedly of help in his successful attempts to prevent Bury being brought under episcopal control. Bury now had a market from which the abbey profited and Domesday Book shows that the abbot had the right to levy 60d. in the pound on the town which was then valued at £20.

Dr Eaglen spends some time considering the Domesday Book entry since it is both extensive and obscure. Darby estimated the permanent population of Bury at that time at a very conjectural figure of 3,000. Dr Eaglen questions this, pointing out that the activity of the Bury mint was far less at this date than that of much smaller places, for example Taunton, for which Darby estimates a population of 300 only. As the king had no moneymen at Bury the merit of this comparison is perhaps doubtful. Probably more justifiably, he attributes the difference partly to Bury's preoccupation with the rebuilding of the church, necessitating the removal of St Edmund's remains, and, also, possibly, the chance of survival of coins. The rebuilding was completed by the 1090s, for in 1095 the remains of St Edmund were returned to the abbey, which was re-consecrated, and no doubt pilgrimages to the shrine became easier. Certainly after that date mint output there increased. Dr Eaglen compares the annual incomes of various abbeys using the broadly consistent figures of Corbett and Knowles which place Glastonbury at the top with up to £840 p.a. and Bury third or fourth after Ely and, possibly, Christchurch, Canterbury, with up to £655.

However, of William I just one Bury coin is known, from the moneyned Godinc, and it is noteworthy that the Beauworth hoard contained none at all. Of William II no coins are known at all. For Henry I Dr Eaglen again takes a close look at the abbots and their privileges. There are more surviving Bury St Edmund's coins of this king and examples are known of BMC Norman Kings VII, XIII, XIV, and doubtfully X and XII. There is evidence that extensive building works were still going on around the abbey and its precincts at this period.

Throughout Stephen's troubled reign Bury was essentially loyal to the king and was disturbed by the civil wars only once, in 1153. However, it was close to territories controlled by Hugh Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, who at various stages supported the Empress Matilda, and Nigel, Bishop of Ely, who was also hostile to the king. Dr Eaglen takes us through the convoluted relationships that affected East Anglia during the civil war and concludes that Bury mainly prospered during this period as, indeed, did the nearby town of Peterborough, despite the proximity of partisans who at one time or another supported the Empress Matilda.

A considerable number of Bury coins have survived from Stephen's reign. These are of BMC Norman Kings types I, II, VI, and VII and are struck by at least six moneymen. Dr Eaglen reviews the Bury content of ten hoards, reaching the conclusion that they account for less than 1.5% of the total and observing that, from the evidence of the hoards, Bury coins apparently circulated mainly in areas under Stephen's control.

In his chapter on the Tealby coinage Dr Eaglen first looks at the history of the abbey, whose rights and privileges had been confirmed by Henry II. A weak abbot and the need for rebuilding repairs allowed the abbey to fall into debt at this time. Hugh Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, remained troublesome and Bury was used by the king as a military base to contain and, when necessary, to attack him.

The Tealby coinage was introduced in 1158 and Dr Eaglen shows that Bury was responsible for issues from all the sub-classes, A to F. He analyses a number of hoards and shows that out of a total of approximately 8,574 coins in these there were 67 to 69 Bury coins from three moneymen. He catalogues 187 Bury coins of this issue and reconciles them with the 71 of Bury in BMC Tealby. He analyses the representation of different mints, as well as weight distribution and legend readings on known Bury coins.

The weak abbot, Hugh, died in 1180. He was succeeded in 1182 by Samson, an outstanding personality, who, over a period of years, was able to restore the abbey to affluence. Short Cross coins were introduced in 1180, but Bury mint was inactive until 1205. Dr Eaglen attributes this gap to an administrative change whereby the function of exchanging was separated from the function of the moneymen and placed in the hands of officials responsible to the crown. Without the ability to operate an exchange the abbots could only have struck his own silver and thus it may not have been worthwhile. The reform instituted by King John in 1205 was intended to improve the quality of coin in circulation and Dr Eaglen supposes that this gave rise to a general review which led to the grant to Bury of a die and its customary rights (presumably including an exchange). In any case, Bury coins of class Vbl and succeeding classes are known from a succession of moneymen.

Coins of classes Vbl, Vb2 and Vc are abundant and the die sequence was established by Brand in 1964. An updated version of this is now published by Dr Eaglen. It shows very clearly that two reverse dies were issued for each obverse die. There was a hiatus between 1208
and 1214 due to a quarrel between King John and the pope, but thereafter the Bury mint struck continuously up to the end of the Short Cross period. Dr Eaglen includes die analyses for classes VIa and VIa and records the readings used on these, and looks in detail at the class VIII issues. His essay on the Short Cross coinage is concluded with a section summarizing hoards and their contents of all the Short Cross classes in which Bury participated.

The Long Cross coinage was struck from 1247 to 1279. The abbot, Hugh, had died in 1248 and a new abbot, Edmund, was elected and confirmed in that year. Operation of the Bury mint must have commenced immediately and continued all through the period, despite political trouble related to the Barons' War. Dr Eaglen follows his usual plan by surveying the Long Cross coinage as a whole then considering it as it applied to Bury. We now have mint account information available for London and Canterbury and he analyses the output of the different moneys at Bury and looks at the hoard evidence (of which the enormous Brussels hoard provides a significant element) in this context.

The main text of his book ends with a 'Conclusion' which gathers the threads together and includes a listing of over 3,000 known coins struck from 315 obverse and 339 reverse dies. This listing, which is broken down by types and reigns, clearly shows the periods at which one obverse was issued with one reverse die and other, comparatively short, periods when this ratio was changed.

Finally, Dr Eaglen presents us with a catalogue of the 3,179 coins in this study and with plates illustrating the 353 known die combinations from this corpus. Altogether this is a comprehensive, thorough and well-documented history of Bury St Edmunds and its mint within the period defined. It stops at the point where Edward I's great reconquiste commenced, so there were still some 50 years of activity (and a considerable volume of coinage) ahead before it ceased to operate as a mint in the 1330s. The first part of this period is, of course, dealt with in the die study of the coins in Robert de Hadeleie's name published by the late Dr Tatler in *BNJ* 1998, leaving the later coins of Edward I, Edward II and the first issue of Edward III still to be studied in detail. The book is extremely well presented and printed, the plates are clear and the quality of photographs is very good. As well as being a credit to its author and to the editors, the typesetters and printers must also be complimented on a first class production.

It is interesting that this work, no. 5 in the BNS Special Publication series, follows Dr Allen's *The Durham Mint* in the same series. It is instructive to compare the two books. Both are studies of an ecclesiastical mint and, though in many ways different in style, both are works of high quality and both, it is interesting to note, are based on doctoral theses. The present reviewer feels that nothing is more appropriate than that the Special Publication series should include specialised studies of medieval mints of this type and quality, and hopes that we shall see more of them.

PETER WOODHEAD

REFERENCES


This latest publication to come off the Withers's production line considers the pennies of the first two Edwards. Undoubtedly, as far as the average finder is concerned (and as the authors acknowledge in their foreword), the coins of these kings can be problematic when it comes to identification. This is a situation long recognised but never adequately resolved in any accessible format. The authors point out J.J. North's *Sylloge* volume as useful but out of print, and in any case perhaps not the most suitable book for the beginner. The Withers have now provided something akin to what most new students require when trying to identify their first couple of Edwardian pennies – basic introductions, key elements to look for and, usefully (and for the first time in a popular publication), large illustrations so that one can more accurately compare the coin viewed through the lens with the printed page.

After an introduction to the development of the classification system from Burns through the Fox brothers

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6 Tatler 1998.

7 Allen 2003
and up to date, there follows a chronological table with classes, approximate dates and mints, and a brief paragraph discussing some of the technicalities involved in the minting of the coins. The beginner’s guide follows, with a general, easy-to-follow description of the features that make up the obverse of the coin. The make-up and variation in the crown are then considered, with a look through the letter forms and abbreviation marks seen in the series, all in order to familiarise the reader with the features that aid in identification.

The next chapter considers the main question one will be asking of a coin: what class is it? The chapter begins with the method employed by the authors when identifying a coin, which is to first look at the form of the Cs and Es in order to allocate it to one of the broad divisions 1–5, 6–11a, or 11b and later. Next comes an examination of the initial marks, with illustrations to help identify which belongs to which class. Illustrations of the letter forms and legends follow, with a brief explanation of those legends that deviate from the English series and occur on the continental sterling imitations, with examples of the most common foreign coins that might be found. Other special features are illustrated for convenience, such as the cross types, marks on the neck, punctuation and special letter forms. A list of mules noted by the authors is then given and is followed by a note on errors made by the die engravers.

The next section of the book looks at the mints for the Edwardian pennies, starting with London and then proceeding alphabetically thereafter. For ease of use, this section could perhaps have been arranged with the principal mints first and the minor ones, with a more limited output, following them, but this is a minor gripe. Each part is illustrated with a photograph of a typical reverse and one or two hand-drawn illustrations of some of the varieties in the legend for each mint. A list of the variants is also included indicating to which class certain legend varieties belong, together with other salient features such as extra pellets and cross types that help further define the correct class.

The next section completes the identification process by considering the obverse, and therefore the class to which the coin belongs. Laid out chronologically, each class and its subtypes are illustrated with full A4 pages of images to complement the text. The coins, illustrated at three times actual size, are well chosen and help the reader in better correlating the written description to the actual object itself. One useful feature is the inclusion after class 15d of a selection of later coins of Edward III to familiarise the reader with the distinctive differences encountered as the series progresses.

The final section describes the coins of the Berwick mint, whose halfpennies and farthings have not so far been covered in the Small Change series. First there is a potted history of the town of Berwick and its castle. This is followed by a look at Christopher Blunt’s classification system, which first appeared in the Numismatic Chronicle. The Withers have not set out to change this, but simply to correct and add to it. The method used is to look at the crowns and faces in order to achieve this. The format follows that of the previous sections, with good quality, large illustrations interspersed amongst text explaining the features that help attribute the Berwick pennies, halfpennies and farthings among their various classes.

The approach the reviewer took to appraise this book was to use it as advertised, as a beginner’s guide to identify a small hoard of twenty-two Edwardian pennies that had recently come to hand. Following the method suggested in the book, it was an easy task to firstly isolate the possible types based on the lettering and crown, then to narrow down the possibilities by establishing the mint, and finally to attribute all the English coins to the correct class via the sections detailing each class and its specific features. When compared against North’s Sylloge volume the only refinement necessary was to further subdivide the class 10 and 11 coins past the crown type, a distinction which this book does not go into.

Perhaps not for the pocket of the fieldworker, but as an introductory guide to the pennies of Edward I and II, this volume is a welcome addition in a sparsely populated area of English numismatic literature.

RICHARD KELLEHER


The coinage of Scotland, issued from 1136 until the Act of Union in 1707, is more numerous and varied than might be expected from a relatively small country. The many issues, designs and inscriptions make it one of the most interesting in Europe. The major collection of this series is held by the National Museums of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The basis of the collection is the cabinet of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland founded in 1780. This was enhanced by the purchase, in 1872, of the Faculty of Advocates’ collection, which mainly comprised Scottish coins. This in turn contained one of the earliest Scottish collections, that of James Sutherland, started late in the seventeenth century and sold to the Advocates in 1705. The other major part of the Collection is the late nineteenth century cabinet of Thomas Coats, which was donated by his family in 1921. The Coats collection had formed the basis of Edward Burns’s The Coinage of Scotland (Edinburgh, 1877) and thus this important element of the NMS collection is published in what remains the standard work on Scottish coins. Apart from specimens included in papers and notes on individual issues and finds, the only other publication on the Edinburgh collection is the short and dated catalogue, Scottish Coins, by the then Curator of Coins, A.B. Richardson (London, 1901).

The volume under review is the first of a welcome series planned to cover the whole collection of Scottish coins in the NMS, as part of the British Academy’s Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles. It covers the period 1526 to 1603, from the start of the second coinage of James V to the end of James VI’s eighth coinage. Starting with the second rather than the first coinage of James V is justified on the grounds that the latter is a
continuation of the gold and billon from the previous reign, there being no silver struck again until 1526. The volume ends with James VI's accession to the English throne, when the two coinages were unified in terms of weight, fineness and design. It is a substantial volume, containing 99 plates and 1771 coins.

The work commences with a detailed survey of the coinages of James V, Mary and James VI. The reason given for dealing with this period first is that it has been well covered by recent research which, in conjunction with the surviving records, meant it could be produced on the current state of knowledge, unlike earlier periods on which further research was required. A large amount of work has been carried out on various issues and aspects of the sixteenth century, as is shown by numerous references to the publications of Colonel and Mrs Murray, Robert Stevenson and Lord Stewartby. This new overview is concise, but detailed, describing the surviving records, the weight, fineness and tariff for each issue, its types and inscriptions, as well as the relevant publications. It is up-to-date, easy to consult and replaces a number of shorter ones in other works. It should be the starting point for anyone interested in this period for some time to come.

There follows an account of the analyses of a group of the billon coins, from the introduction of the bawbee in 1538 to the end of the use of that alloy in the saltire placks of 1594. This work was carried out at the NMS as part of the project. Almost 400 coins were checked by X-ray fluorescence on the surface and forty were further subjected to a scanning electron microscope on an abraded part of the edge. A number of counterfeits were included. The results show a consistent basic silver-copper alloy for all issues, with the mint closely following the official instructions for their fineness. Where there was surface enrichment this appeared to be due to corrosion. The counterfeits were mainly of copper, except for the placks of James VI, which were found to have a tinned surface. This analysis is a valuable contribution to an aspect of the Scottish coinage which has so far not received much attention.

The sources of the collection are numerous and varied, as is to be expected in a national collection dating back to the eighteenth century, and are listed by acquisitions from individuals and dealers, by hoards, and then single finds. As indicated above, the main sources are the collections of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, the Advocates/Sutherland, Coats and Lindsay Carnegie. The latter formed the core of the Scottish coins in the former Royal Museum of Scotland, which amalgamated with the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland to form the present NMS. Unfortunately the coins from the Antiquaries in many instances do not retain the earlier provenances. Thus even for Advocates/Sutherland only a small number can be assigned to these two cabinets.

Another important source is treasure trove, in the form of both hoard and single finds. This was, and remains, more encompassing in Scotland than elsewhere in Britain, and Edinburgh had the unopposed first choice of such finds until more recent times. The general policy was to select items not already represented and then to integrate them without specifying the source. Much the same happened in the assembling of Scotland's other major coin collection, that of Dr William Hunter at Glasgow University. Hunter indeed occurs in the 'Sources' here as the possible donor of a forty-four shilling piece of Mary (no. 252). It is suggested that this may have been a gift to mark the foundation of the Society of Antiquaries. This is indeed correct as Hunter is recorded as giving 189 Scottish coins, including twenty-four gold, to the new Society to help start its collection. The introduction to the 'Sources' notes that some entries can occur in more than one group which leads to some, perhaps unnecessary, repetition. The Deans of the Chapel Royal/ Crossraguel Abbey, Gallon/Dornoch and Seaford/Urquhart Castle have more or less similar entries in both sections A and C. Next comes a comprehensive bibliography which, while serving to point the reader in the direction of the main works on which the arrangement is based, will also provide the starting point for any interest or research in this period.

The catalogue contains 1771 entries. These follow the normal Sylloge format with headings for types and inscriptions followed by the relevant entries giving number, weight, axis, date, and description, which here are very full and include references to Burns and Richardson and the museum numbers. The entries for the forty coins which were analysed by both methods noted also contain the results of this investigation. The size and wealth of the Edinburgh collection is evident. The growth over the years can be seen from the fact that Richardson listed just over 2,200 coins for the whole Scottish series in 1910. It may be compared with the 464 entries for the period 1526-1603 in SCBI 35, covering the major Scottish collections at the Ashmolean and Hunterian Museums. The list of rarities is long and includes the pattern crown (no. 8) and pattern ducat (no. 26) of James V, Sutherland's portrait ducat of Francis and Mary (no. 984), and the more recent purchase in 2002 of the Henry and Mary portrait ryal (no. 1165A). The long runs of examples of various issues are too numerous to list but overall this volume gives an outstanding view of Scotland's coinage during the greater part of the sixteenth century, and provides an invaluable research tool.

There is some inconsistency between the order of the survey of the period in the text and the arrangement in the catalogue. In the survey the coinage of James VI is dealt with by each of the eight successive issues, whereas in the catalogue it is arranged by metal - the gold of the eight issues and then the silver, in both cases the billon and copper come after the precious metal. However, this does not hinder either the understanding of the coinages nor the use of the catalogue.

Plates can often be a problem but here, despite the large number covering a great variety of specimens in various metals and conditions, they are very pleasing. The numerous billon coins, usually less well produced, might have proved difficult, but this is not so and indeed it is only with the occasional gold coin that there is some lack of clarity. It may be noted that some plates, e.g. 28, 41 and 97, are missing illustrations; for example, plate 41, nos 1114-28, are not illustrated on the ground of poor condition and corrosion. The 'Sources' state that only six (nos 1141-6) out of the parcel of 357 coins from the Aberdeen (Marischal College) hoard are
included in the catalogue, although these are all counterfeit hardheads of Francis and Mary of the ill-produced type with 158 rather than 1558.

Forgeries, where they are deemed to be contemporary, are included in the main catalogue at the end of the appropriate issue. The majority of these are of the billet issues of Mary and James VI. It is interesting that only two forgeries of higher denominations are listed—a ryal of Henry and Mary (no. 1189) and a balance half merk of James VI (no. 1595). This seems a very low number for precious metal counterfeits, but appears to follow an equal lack in earlier periods of the Scottish coinage. Perhaps forgery was not so much of a problem in Scotland until it affected the billet and copper in the later sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Plate 99 contains six modern forgeries, mainly of coins of Mary. Again this seems a low number for the national collection of Scottish coins. Only one minor typographical error was spotted: in plate 98 the heading for the copper pennies should read 1597 rather than 1579.

Overall the British Academy, the National Museums of Scotland and not least the author are to be congratulated on the publication of this substantial volume. It is to be hoped the other volumes, some of which are well advanced, will appear shortly. The National Museums of Scotland Sylloge series will undoubtedly replace Burns—no mean feat.

J.D. BATESON


This definitive publication is the product of twenty years work by three specialist students of the series—in fact since their average individual period of study is fifty years, it could be said to be the result of 150 years of work! It embraces the coinages for Ireland and the Indies as well as those for England, commencing with an analysis of the poor state of the coinage on the accession of Elizabeth I, the need to rectify it and the ways by which was achieved. The need for the production of threepence, sixpence and halfcrown, denominations peculiar to this reign, is explained. Since gold circulated abroad, portraits on the latter issues featured ornate costumes to stress the queen's status whereas those on the silver revealed far more basic attire because she wished to be identified with the majority of her subjects at home. Mint workers became salaried and the Company of Moneys instituted a form of a widows' and children's pension scheme. The absence of a portrait on the coinage of teneoons for the East Indies, intended to rival that of the Spanish, is explained: only coins bearing male portraits were accepted there. The coinage became known as portcullis money as a result.

In reading this informative background to this series it becomes apparent that it has now been categorised into seven coinages which, with North having listed three issues in English Hammered Coinage and Spink six in Coins of England, may cause some confusion.

A table of dies recorded by the authors for each denomination in descending order of value and in sequence of mintmarks, together with their combinations, follows. Different forms of roses, sceptres, lis, lions, cross eagles, shields, crowns, harps, portcullises and later punches are then illustrated. These tables will undoubtedly appear daunting to those unfamiliar with the series, but from them it should be possible to give a precise identification to any silver coin within it.

The book concludes with a bibliography, lists of the privy marks, indentures and Pyx Trials, details of the coins used for research and estimates of numbers of coins struck.

M.B. SHARP


From the date of the founding of the many colonies dependent upon Great Britain and extending to the year 1825, currency was a particular local problem. In the colonies and plantations of the Americas and the West Indies this was particularly so. From the date of the founding of the many colonies dependent upon Great Britain and extending to the year 1825, currency was a particular local problem. In the colonies and plantations of the Americas and the West Indies this was particularly so. For this reason it seems appropriate to review this book here, although its subject matter is not one that might normally be expected in the Journal.

As he explains in his Preface, Menzel's aim has been to set the mints and coinages in their historical context and to provide a 'data base' for future researchers. To this end, the introduction first describes the Spanish colonial system, with the two great Viceroyalties of New Spain and Peru, each subdivided into a number of audiencias. Menzel then deals with the mints. Columbus was authorized to establish one as early as 1497, to exploit the riches that was anticipated would fall to the Spanish crown. However, it was not until 1536 that the first was actually set up, in Mexico, to be followed by nine more over the following

8 Pridmore 1965, 3.
10 See Chalmers 1972, 5ff. for a discussion of the circulation and use of these coins in the West Indies. The value put on them varied dramatically from island to island: Barbados, 1668, the piece of eight raised in value from 4s. to 5s.; Montserrat, 1670, the piece of eight raised in value from 5s. to 6s.; Jamaica, 1681, 4s. for a "Peru Piece of Eight" and 5s. for a "piece of eight of Mexico" (Chalmers 1972, 48–9, 64 and 99).
century or so. Menzel discusses in detail their functions and operation and their role in the processing of mined precious metals. (The entire process, from mining to minting, is very fully explained in a detailed diagram on p. 5.) Finally Menzel takes the reader through the manufacturing process that produced the roughly-shaped, poorly-struck coins that we are so familiar with today. (Note that the volume deals only with the hand-struck issues; the later, machine-struck coins not covered at all.)

The Introduction is followed by Chapter 1, ‘Kings, Coin Designs, Anomalies and Special Issues’. Just as it says on the can, this covers (1) the Spanish kings of the period; (2) the designs used on the coins (generally either the ‘pillar and waves’ style or the ‘shield style’, except for the distinctive designs used on the half- and quarter-reals); (3) what Menzel terms ‘anomalies’ (mainly the results of die-sinking errors or fudges made by the die-cutters to save work); and (4) the special issues – both the presentation coins (carefully struck on well-prepared, circular plans) and the heart-shaped coins (representing the Sacred Heart), produced primarily at the Potosi mint, which were apparently made to support church-related activities and probably also to serve as votives.

There then follows the meat of the book – ten chapters on the individual mints and their products: Mexico City (striking cobs 1536–1734), Santo Domingo (1542–1634), Lima (1568–1752), Potosi (1573–1773), its huge output underpinned by the products of the nearby silver mines), the short-lived Panama (1580–83), Santa Fe de Bogota (1622–1756), Cartagena (1622–35), and then briefly reopened in 1655 following a scandal at the Potosi mint), the ephemeral Cuzco (1698 only, producing just two significant emissions), Guatemala (1733–54, opened to address a critical shortage of coin in the region), and Cuba (an emergency mint opened during the British siege of Santiago in 1741, which struck only copper four and eight reales pieces). For each mint the coinages are arranged by king, then by the dates on the coins (if applicable), and finally by the mint assayer, whose initials were supposed to appear on each coin and whom Menzel has worked hard to identify. (A useful summary of the various mint officials and their roles appears on p. 6.) The volume concludes with an appendix on weights and values in Spanish colonial America, a bibliography and an index.

Each type is well-illustrated by a combination of line-drawings and photographs, with significant details and lettering often shown in separate drawings. As a test, four recently-acquired minor coins were classified using the book. It took a little time finding one’s way around Menzel’s system, but it did seem to work reasonably well: once one became familiar with it, although one suspects that users may find it useful to have some prior knowledge of the series if they are to get the best from it. As regards the illustrations, while the photographs are generally of reasonable quality, the individual coins in this series are often so deplorably struck that the line drawings were generally of more help. One criticism that could be levelled is that the layout of the headings can be rather cramped and it is sometimes hard to find the exact section of text one needs.

David Symons

REFERENCES


Firstly, I have to declare an interest as Galata was responsible for the production of the plates, and for introducing John Whitmore to Allan Davison, and the man who makes such a good job of the binding. However, I had nothing to do with the final text, apart from making the odd suggestion over the many years of its gestation.

This all-embracing book consists of a dozen or so chapters, most of which might easily have been published on their own as stand-alone entities. They comprise: an introduction and historical survey of British tokens; a ‘Token Tracer 1700–1860’ (including a useful survey of token literature); a list of addenda and corrections to Dalton and Hamer’s catalogue of eighteenth-century tokens; a survey of recent prices realised at auction by eighteenth-century tokens; a supplement giving additions and corrections to Bell’s Unofficial Farthings; together with a price guide; an introduction to West Midlands inn tokens; checklists of inn tokens of Birmingham, Herefordshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Dudley, and north Worcestershire; an index of token-issuing inns; an analysis of inn token makers’ named stock dies used on West Midlands tokens; a ‘British Inn Token Location Tracer’; and a comprehensive index to Hawkins’s Dictionary of Makers.

Whitmore’s The Token Tracer was originally published in 1990. When it went out of print five years ago it left a gap. Even after thirty-five years of collecting and being in the coin and token business, it is one that we still consult. The new version has been much revised, improved and updated. Useful for the beginner is the listing of token literature that precedes it.

In 1988 Whitmore wrote and published his Worcestershire Inn Tokens, about which the present reviewer commented that it was a model for any future writer/cataloguer to follow. In this work he provides an updated listing of all known Worcestershire inn tokens.
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with new pieces being listed in bold type. Also included are two plates of new items, or items which were not available for illustration in the previous work. This, however, is only a part of a compendium of works on inn tokens, covering the counties of Herefordshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire, along with the areas of Dudley and Sandwell, and the city of Birmingham. Tokens are catalogued by name of the pub, location, publican, denomination, and maker. Sources are quoted, and, for Birmingham tokens, it is noted if a photograph of the establishment appears in Birmingham Pubs.16 The indexing is excellent. The research has been thorough and over fifty institutional and private collections have been examined. The catalogue is preceded by a valuable discussion on the uses of pub checks.

The chapter 'British Inn Token Location Tracer' will locate many, if not all of those pub checks which, annoyingly, tell you everything but the name of the town. 2,800 otherwise anonymous tokens are identified, from Abercynon to Worcester. There is even a section with fifty or so tokens which show no street or place address, but which have nevertheless been reliably located! For the real aficionado of pub checks there is also an analysis of named stock dies used and these are linked to those tokens in the various listings. This must surely be the biggest and best publication ever on the subject of inn tokens.

There are two chapters on eighteenth-century tokens, the first a compilation of additions and corrections to Dalton and Hamer - including those with 'improper' edges. There then follows a listing by Dalton and Hamer number of eighteenth-century tokens which have appeared as individual lots in major London, and some overseas, auctions, giving the prices they have achieved.

For those interested in the prices of 'unofficial', i.e. mid-nineteenth century farthing tokens, there is an eighteen page guide giving prices for 900 tokens in VF and EF conditions.

Every good book finishes with a comprehensive index, but here it is another much-needed item, an index to Hawkins's Dictionary of Makers rather than the Whitmore Companion. The title of this book may initially put people off, as it is not immediately obvious what it contains, but I hope that the would-be user is now enlightened. The first person to use the book in print used the letters 'WC' (Whitmore Companion) to refer to it. As succinct as this pair of letters is, the connotation is such that this writer will be using 'TCC', which he is led to believe the author prefers too. If you collect tokens, consider this to be a really hearty recommendation for what is a 'must have' book that would still be a bargain at twice the price.

PAUL WITHERS

REFERENCES


VERY little has ever been written about this intriguing subject, especially in relation to the many diverse and collectable mining tokens that remain available today, making this book essential for inclusion in any numismatic library.

In only a few years, the author succeeded in assembling the most remarkable collection of Cumbrian mining tokens (now dispersed), which far outstripped any other known collection in quality and diversity. This book not only embodies the contents of that collection, but also encompasses the mining tokens referred to by Ferguson17 as well as those published by Davis and Waters.18

Of particular interest and significance is the historical context afforded to each token, and also the inclusion of some tokens not previously or wrongly assigned, with supporting evidence. In addition, it brings together under one cover a much-needed record of the many family names associated with the coal mining and quarrying industry of the district, the result of a meticulous study of the fragmented and disparate records existing in several Records Offices and elsewhere. It also traces the genealogies of the famous Cumbrian families associated with the industry, whose great wealth was substantially gained from it.

By any measure, this is a most valuable and worthwhile contribution that clarifies many previously uncertain relationships and conundrums that have plagued scholars and collectors for decades, and provides a vital data for any further research that may be needed.

CHARLES FARTHING

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17 Ferguson 1899.
18 Davis and Waters 1973.