

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE BRITISH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, 2008

All meetings during the year were held at the Warburg Institute and the President, Dr M.A.S. Blackburn, was in the chair throughout.

(For Officers and Council for 2008, see Volume 78)

**22 JANUARY 2008.** An Extraordinary General Meeting preceded the Ordinary Meeting. A resolution was passed amending chapters VI, VII and XX of the By-Laws, providing a procedure for Members to make nominations for Offices and Council Membership and authorising the optional use of electronic technology for notifications and voting. (The amended By-Laws were published in *BNJ* 78 (2008), pp. 307–13.) At the Ordinary Meeting, Messrs Roger Michael Barrett, Peter Burns, Robert Gordon Cooper and Rainer Kretz were elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. Dr Elina Screen then read a paper entitled *The early Anglo-Saxon coin finds in Norway*.

**26 FEBRUARY 2008.** Messrs John Douglas Finlay, Paul Sinclair Heywood, Iain Charles Lindsay Poole, Ivor Stilitz and Andrew Wayne were elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. The President congratulated Mr Richard Falkiner and Drs Gay Van der Meer on the fiftieth Anniversary of their elections to the Society. Dr Barrie Cook then read a paper entitled *'The king offereth but only golde': coins and royal ceremony in Tudor and Stuart England*.

**27 MARCH 2008.** The meeting was exceptionally held on a Thursday owing to the Warburg Institute's Easter closure period. Dr David J Rampling and Messrs Keith Roy Cottrell and Ian Leins were elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. Nick Wells then read a paper entitled *Ending with a bang or a whimper? Coin use in fifth-century Britain*.

**22 APRIL 2008.** Mr John Weir was elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. The President noted that it was the fiftieth anniversary of the Society holding its meetings in the Warburg Institute, and announced that Council had awarded the Blunt Prize to Timothy Crafter and the North Book Prize to Dr Robin Eaglen for *The Abbey and Mint of Bury St Edmunds to 1279*. Dr Catherine Eagleton then read a paper entitled *The world in one room: Sarah Sophia Banks and her coin collection*.

**27 MAY 2008.** Messrs Paul Connor, Adrian Lyndow Sandberg, Christopher Donald Tasker, Greg Andrew Williams and Andrew Davis Ltd were elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. The President presented the Blunt Prize to Dr Timothy Crafter. The President then presented the North Book Prize to Dr Robin Eaglen for his book *The Abbey and Mint of Bury St Edmunds*. Professor Sir Christopher Frayling then

read a paper entitled *Continuity through change: the work of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee*. The meeting was followed by the Spring Reception for members and their guests, sponsored by Spink.

**24 JUNE 2008.** Mr Reinhart Carsten was elected by Council to Student Membership. The President announced the death of Stella Greenall, a member 1980–2003, on 18 June 2008. Professor Michael Metcalf then read a paper entitled *Betwixt sceattas and Offa's pence*.

**23 SEPTEMBER 2008.** Mr Nigel Keith Nicholson was elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. The President announced that Council had nominated for Honorary Membership Professor Martin Biddle, Professor Kenneth Jonsson, Professor Simon Keynes and Dr Tuukka Talvio. Dr Adrian Marsden then read a paper entitled *Company of wolves: contemporary imitations of Constantine's VRBS ROMA series, c. 330–348*.

**28 OCTOBER 2008.** Messrs Theo Gould, Jon Lusk and Bill McKivor were elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. At the Meeting Professor Martin Biddle, Professor Kenneth Jonsson, Professor Simon Keynes and Dr Tuukka Talvio were elected unanimously to Honorary Membership. The President announced that Council had also nominated for Honorary Membership Miss Marion Archibald, in recognition of her life-time contribution to British numismatics. The election would be held at the next meeting. The President read out the list of Council's Nominations for Officers and Council, and since no further nominations had been received from Members he would declare them elected at the Annual General Meeting. Dr Richard Clay then read a paper entitled *Matthew Boulton and the art of making money*.

**25 NOVEMBER 2008.** Messrs Jai Chandrasekhar, David Ronald Fangen, Andrew Gordon Maynard, Delmas Glenn Parker and Drs Brian James and Christopher Lamptey were elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. Miss Marion Archibald was elected to Honorary Membership. The following Officers and Council were declared elected for 2009:

<i>President:</i>	R.J. Eaglen
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	C.E. Challis, G.P. Dyer D.W. Dykes, P.D. Mitchell, H.E. Pagan, and Lord Stewartby
<i>Director:</i>	K. Clancy
<i>Treasurer:</i>	P.H. Mernick
<i>Librarian:</i>	J.E. Roberts-Lewis
<i>Secretary:</i>	R. Kelleher
<i>Membership Secretary:</i>	R.L.N. Hewson

*Council:* M.R. Allen, N.L. Biggs,  
R.F. Bland, D. Darrington,  
Emily Freeman, P. de Jersey,  
N.M. McQ. Holmes,  
A.W. Lyons, W.A. MacKay  
(*Publicity Officer*),  
R.G.R. Naismith (*Website  
Officer*), P.J. Preston-Morley,  
Elina M. Screen, and  
R.H. Thompson

November:  
By Maj-Gen Adrian Lyons.  
1. Three Lunette type pennies: a) Alfred type A,  
Heremund; b) Alfred type D, Ethelgar; c) Burgred  
type A, Guthmund.  
2. One Alfred 'Danelaw' Two-Line halfpenny (modern  
forgery?).  
3. Four Æthelred II die-linked Lincoln coins of the  
Long Cross type: a) Æthelnoth, b) Dregg, c) Osgut,  
d) Osgut. Coins a–c with a barbarous bust and d  
with a regular bust.

Council's proposal that the subscription should remain unchanged at £32 for Ordinary Members and £15 for members under age 21 or in full-time education was approved. The result of the ballot for the John Sanford Saltus Gold Medal for 2008 was announced, it being awarded to the President. The President presented the inaugural Jeffrey North Medals for Services to British Numismatics to Mr Joe Bispham, Mr Michael Bonser, Lt-Cdr Charles Farthing and Mr Anthony Holmes. The President, Dr M.A.S. Blackburn, then delivered his fifth Presidential Address, *Currency under the Vikings: 5. The Scandinavian Legacy*, and was thanked, on behalf of the membership, by Dr C.S.S. Lyon. The President handed over the chair to the new President Dr Robin Eaglen. Members present then attended a wine party sponsored by the out-going President.

#### EXHIBITIONS

February:

By Peter Mitchell.

1. James I sixpence, 1620, mintmark spur-rowel (on obv. spur-rowel over saltire). The date is not listed in Morrieson's paper in *BNJ* 4 (1907), 165–78, but is alluded to in his supplement in *BNJ* 9 (1912), 165–73.
2. Commonwealth sixpence of 1652 with a 2 over inverted 2 in the date inscription.

#### SOCIETY DINNER

A Dinner for Members of the Society and their Guests was held on Friday 4 July 2008 in the Fellows' Dining Room at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. Lord Stewartby gave an address and proposed the health of the Society, and the President replied on behalf of the Society.

#### SUMMER MEETING

The Summer Meeting of the Society, *Art in Coinage*, was held jointly with the Royal Numismatic Society at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, on Saturday 5 July 2008. The meeting was opened and closed by the President. During the morning session, papers were read by John Porteous, *Humphrey Sutherland and the aesthetics of coinage design*; Stephen Raw, *The visual language of coins*; and Dr Anna Gannon, *The aesthetics of Anglo-Saxon coins*. In the afternoon, papers were read by Professor Niels Hannestad, *The Roman Empire: art and propaganda*; Professor Charles Rosenberg, *The art of numismatics: invention and tradition in Italian Renaissance coinage*; and Ian Rank-Broadley FRBS, *A sculptor's reflections on the art of coin making*.

## PRESENTATION OF THE BLUNT PRIZE FOR 2008 TO TIMOTHY CRAFTER

*In presenting the 2008 Blunt Prize on 27 May 2008, the President, Dr Mark Blackburn, said:*

It is my great pleasure this evening to present the Blunt Prize to Timothy Crafter. This prize, named after Christopher Blunt (1904–1987), one of the most distinguished and influential British numismatists of the twentieth century, is awarded every third year to a younger scholar, preferably under thirty-five, who has made a significant recent contribution to the study of British numismatics. I am very pleased to report that the Prize this year has again been generously funded by Christopher's son and daughters – Simon Blunt, Ann Morrison and Judith Townley – and we particularly value this continuing link with members of the family, whom many of us came to know through visits to Christopher's home in Ramsbury. Unfortunately, none of them is able to be here tonight.

Tim Crafter, at twenty-nine, is the youngest person to receive this prize, but he has already been actively carrying out research and publishing for a considerable number of years. He first started coming to the Coin Room in the Fitzwilliam Museum whilst a schoolboy of just

fifteen. He joined this society in 1995, when he was sixteen, and a year later published his first note in a numismatic journal: a report on a parcel of French feudal coins in the *Numismatic Chronicle*.<sup>1</sup> The next year, in 1997, he was awarded the Parkes Webber Prize of the Royal Numismatic Society for, I recall, an essay on Henry II's Cross-Crosslets coinage (the Tealby type), which formed the basis for his article in our *Journal* in 1998: 'A re-examination of the classification and chronology of the Cross-and-Crosslets type of Henry II'.<sup>2</sup> This remarkably mature piece of work would on its own qualify Tim for the Blunt prize as having made a significant contribution to our field of study.

By now an undergraduate at St Andrews studying Philosophy, numismatics should have taken a back seat. However, when a hoard of 311 Tealby coins was found at Gayton, Northants, in 1998/99, Gareth Williams invited Tim to work on the find at the British Museum while it was pending inquest, and he continued to do so after it had been acquired by the Ashmolean. This perhaps sealed Tim's fate, for on leaving St Andrews he followed the Gayton hoard to Oxford to prepare a doctorate on the monetary history of the later twelfth century. Several further articles have appeared, including a die-study of Tealby coins of the Ipswich mint,<sup>3</sup> and his work has extended north of the Border to encompass the coinage of William the Lion. Recently, Tim has heard that his thesis has been successfully examined, and he will soon be able to take his degree as Dr Crafter. Tim, we have high expectations of things to come, and I am confident that the Blunt Prize will be but a staging point in a distinguished career.

May I ask you to step forward to receive this cheque for £300.

## PRESENTATION OF THE NORTH BOOK PRIZE FOR 2008 TO DR ROBIN EAGLEN

*In presenting the North Book Prize for 2008 to Dr Robin Eaglen on 27 May 2008, the President, Dr Mark Blackburn, said:*

This is the second occasion on which the North Book Prize has been presented. It was established in 2006, to be awarded every two years to the author of the book published within the last three years that is judged to have made the best contribution to British numismatics. From a list of some thirty eligible books published since 2005, one emerged as a clear winner: Robin Eaglen's *The Abbey and Mint of Bury St Edmunds to 1279*.<sup>4</sup>

This work is a classic: a detailed numismatic study based on a corpus of coins of the Bury mint, subjected to a die-study, and discussed in the historical context of the Abbey itself. Bury, a relatively small mint, punches above its weight in terms of the knowledge it brings for the coinage and mint organisation of the eleventh to fourteenth centuries. This is because it was one of a small group of ecclesiastical mints that persisted into the Middle Ages, and some exceptional documentary evidence for it survives. Aside from the detailed chronological survey, which often draws upon statistical data presented in numerous tables and charts, an important element of the book is its catalogue of over 3,000 coins, and plates illustrating each die-combination which will make it an enduring reference work for numismatists. This volume studies the activity of the mint down to the end of the Long Cross issue, and the

<sup>1</sup> T.C.R. Crafter, 'A purse hoard from the Champagne region', *NC* 156 (1996), 301–2.

<sup>2</sup> T.C.R. Crafter, 'A re-examination of the classification and chronology of the Cross-and-Crosslets type of Henry II', *BNJ* 68 (1998), 42–63.

<sup>3</sup> T.C.R. Crafter, 'A die-study of the Cross-and-Crosslets type of the Ipswich mint, c.1161/2–1180', *NC* 162 (2002), 237–51; 'A moneyer's initial on a Cross-and-Crosslet coin', *BNJ* 74 (2004), 180–1; 'Twelve pennies of Henry II from the Thorpe Thewles hoard', *BNJ* 75 (2005), 169–72; 'Henry II, the St Augustine's dispute and the loss of the abbey's mint franchise', in *Coinage and History in the North Sea World c.500–1250: Essays in Honour of Marion Archibald*, ed. B. Cook and G. Williams (Leiden and Boston, 2006), 601–16.

<sup>4</sup> Robin Eaglen, *The Abbey and Mint of Bury St Edmunds to 1279*, British Numismatic Society Special Publication 5 (London, 2006), xv + 413 pp.

Edwardian sterlings will be treated in a sequel in, I hope, the not too distant future. It is the product of some thirty years of research, work which in 1989 justified the award of a doctorate in London University, and which today the Society has great pleasure in recognising with the presentation of the North Book Prize for 2008.

## JEFFREY NORTH MEDAL PRESENTATIONS 2008

*In making the first presentations of the Jeffrey North Medal for Services to British Numismatics on 25 November 2008, the President, Dr Mark Blackburn, said:*

I am pleased tonight not only to be able to unveil the designs for the Society's new Jeffrey North Medal, but also to make presentations to the first four recipients of it. The design, modelling and finishing of the medal is the work of Nicola Moss, one of Britain's leading contemporary medallists, and it represents her interpretation of the concept of service to British numismatics. It takes the form of a bee flying to the hive over a meadow strewn with symbols that will be familiar to numismatists as privy marks that occur on various British coins. The design is innovative in that when turned over, the fenced meadow is transformed into a square box housing the medal.

For the establishment of this medal we are greatly indebted to Jeffrey North. Unfortunately his health and mobility does not enable him to be present tonight, but we have sent him a specially inscribed specimen, and another reference specimen has been given to the British Museum.

The medal is to be awarded to 'members of the Society or others in recognition of outstanding services to British numismatics, whether in the UK or overseas'. It is Council's intention that two medals should normally be awarded every other year, but for this initial distribution it was decided to make four presentations, two for outstanding services to the Society and two for services to British numismatics more generally. It is with great pleasure then that I present the medals to the four recipients, all of whom are here tonight.



Michael Bonser, Charles Farthing, Tony Holmes and Joe Bispham with their medals.

*Joe Bispham*

Joe Bispham's expertise in numismatics lies particularly in the reigns of Stephen and Edward VI, and he has been a frequent lecturer on these and other subjects to this and other societies. His paper on the base silver shillings in the *BNJ* for 1985 is a classic. But we are recognising him tonight for the long service that he has given to the British Association of Numismatic Societies as the organiser of their annual Weekend Lecture Courses.

BANS started after the World War II, and held its first Coin Day in 1947 at the Institute of Archaeology, just over the other side of Gordon Square from here, chaired jointly by Blunt and Mattingly, the then Presidents of the BNS and RNS.

The first Weekend Lecture Course was held in 1957 and run by Frank Snow, a very jolly character who many of you will remember. Frank ran the courses from 1957 until 1987, and then asked Joe to take them over. Joe's first course was run in 1989 at Homerton College, in Cambridge, and since then they have circulated between Oxford, Cambridge, Worcester, Durham, Nottingham and Derby. They have been very popular events, which is essentially due to Joe's good organisation and success in finding interesting speakers. Next year's, at Nottingham University, will, he says, be his last – but, whether or not he will really succeed in retiring, twenty years in that role is certainly outstanding service.

*Michael Bonser*

I remember my first contact with Mike Bonser was in 1983, shortly after I had arrived in Cambridge. We had been put in touch, I think by John Brand, as Mike was wondering how he might get involved in numismatic research. He had done some metal-detecting himself, and we talked about the importance of recording the new wave of coin finds that was being made. Mike went away fired with enthusiasm, and hatched a plan to build a network of contacts who would pass on to him details of finds being made in their areas or by members of their clubs. Mike would write a regular series of articles in the magazine *Treasure Hunting* (later in *The Searcher* too), talking about recent finds and their historical significance, and each piece would end with a plea to contact him with information about new finds.

By the end of the first year he had recorded 70 Anglo-Saxon and Norman single-finds, which was a huge number compared with what was already published. In *BNJ* 1984 he and I published 32 of these in the first of a series of articles entitled 'Single-finds of Anglo-Saxon and Norman coins'. The following year we published another 75, and in the third year another 139. At that point Christopher Challis, as *BNJ* editor, decided to establish an annual section, or 'Coin Register' in the *Journal*, to which anyone could contribute. And from there it took off. Mike's network of contacts continued to expand, and people from all over the country contacted him because they knew that they could trust him with confidential information and they valued the identifications and feedback that he gave them.

Over the last twenty-five years Mike Bonser has been responsible for recording more Anglo-Saxon and Norman coin finds than anyone else – some years ago it topped 2,000, and it must be well beyond that now. But his contribution has not only been in the way that he initially stimulated the whole coin recording movement in Britain, or in the number of finds that he has rescued from oblivion, but by gaining the trust of the detector users he built critical bridges in the 1980s between finders and professional academics that undoubtedly contributed to the climate of opinion that enabled the Portable Antiquities Scheme to be established. For all of that he has more than earned the Jeffrey North Medal.

*Charles Farthing*

Charles must be one of the best-known and most popular figures in the Society. For eight years he had more personal contact with our members than anyone else in his capacity as Secretary. He was universally admired for his friendly manner, always willing to go out of his way to be helpful, and simply enjoying the contact that the role brought with other collectors and numismatists.

He became Secretary in 1999, the same year as David Dykes was elected President, and David has often recounted how much he depended on Charles, as together they felt their way in unfamiliar jobs. Charles reorganised the Society's membership records and put them on to computer, and he supported the meetings of Council with great efficiency. After six years in office he very helpfully made the proposal that the role of Secretary might be divided into two: a Meetings Secretary and a Membership Secretary. We readily adopted his suggestion, and Charles agreed to stay on for two further years as Membership Secretary while Elina Screen settled into the newly defined role as Meetings Secretary. Charles is well-deserving of the third medal tonight.

### *Tony Holmes*

The fourth medal goes to another much-loved and long serving officer of the Society. Tony Holmes' interests in numismatics are catholic to say the least – Ancient Greek, Indian and Russian coins, to name but a few – with such wide tastes and learning he was well-suited to be appointed Librarian of the joint BNS/RNS Numismatic Library. He served as RNS Librarian 1993–2007 and as BNS Librarian 1995–2006. During that time he ran the Library with a quiet efficiency that was very effective. With friendly diplomacy, he rallied the support of a team of volunteers to open the Library for members, and to assist with cataloguing the auction catalogues. The computerisation of the Catalogue has been a major undertaking, and despite disclaiming technical knowledge, he has supervised the young people working to input and edit the records, to the point where in 2003 he could distribute a CD with the Book Catalogue to members of both societies, and put up a version of this on the RNS website. Tony's contribution as Librarian over more than twelve years went well beyond the normal call of duty, and he is well-deserving of the final medal.

## THE BLUNT PRIZE REGULATIONS

1. This Prize was instituted in 1986 as The Council Prize; its name was changed in 2005 to mark the outstanding contribution to the Society and to British Numismatics made by Christopher Evelyn Blunt (1904–1987). The Prize will be awarded every three years to an individual, whether a member of the Society or not, who has made a significant contribution to the study of coins, medals or tokens, struck or used by the peoples of the British Isles and Commonwealth and the United States of America, and of such territories as may at any time be or have been subject to their jurisdiction.
2. Council's intention in instituting this Prize is to encourage younger scholars, and preference will normally be given to suitable candidates under thirty-five years old at the date when the prize is awarded.
3. The Prize will be fixed at £100 or at such other amount as Council shall from time to time determine. [Increased to £300 in 2005.]
4. It shall be awarded to the candidate who receives two-thirds of the votes cast by members of Council in a ballot held at a Council meeting other than that immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting.
5. The requirement for a ballot may be waived at Council's discretion if it appears that Council's choice will fall on one generally acceptable candidate.
6. It is intended that the first award of the prize will be made during 1987.

*(These Regulations were authorised by the Council of the British Numismatic Society at its meeting on 25 February 1986 and amended 22 March 2005.)*

## THE JEFFREY NORTH MEDAL REGULATIONS

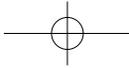
1. The Jeffrey North Medal for Services to British Numismatics was established in 2008 with a generous donation from Mr Jeffrey North.
2. The Medal shall be awarded to members of the Society or others in recognition of outstanding services to British numismatics, whether in the UK or overseas.
3. The Medal shall be awarded by Council, which may appoint an Advisory Committee to assist it. An award may be made at any time, but the Council should on a regular basis every second year consider whether or not to make one or more awards. A Member of Council may be considered for the Medal, provided that he or she is not a member of the Advisory Committee and is absent from that part of any Council Meeting at which the award is considered.
4. In making an award Council should have regard to the nature of the person's contribution, and the length of time and degree of dedication with which he or she has worked for the good of the subject. If awarded for services to this or another society or organisation, an officer-holder should have done significantly more than would normally be expected of a person in that position. The fact that someone earns a living from numismatics or has been paid a fee for certain numismatic work is not in itself a bar to the award of this medal, but the contribution must have gone significantly beyond the duties for which he or she has been paid. Scholarly publications should not be taken into account, as these are recognised by other awards, but popular publications may be. Examples of the type of service, performed at an exceptional level, that may be recognised by the award are administrative work for a national or local society or other organisation concerned with British numismatics, educational work, lecturing or journalism promoting the subject, recording coin finds or coin collections, curating public collections as a volunteer, editing a journal or other publication, and organising conferences or courses.
5. These Regulations may be amended by Council.

*(These Regulations were authorised by the Council of the British Numismatic Society at its meeting on 24 June 2008.)*

## HONORARY MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

Under the By-Law II.8, 'any persons of distinguished reputation or learning may be proposed by Council for election as Honorary Members'. In view of the wider range of awards and other forms of recognition now available to the Society, the Council in May 2008 decided that Honorary Membership should be distinct from these other awards, used sparingly as a special honour, and that henceforth proposed nominees should be considered under three heads:

1. Distinguished foreign numismatists who have made a contribution to British numismatics;
2. Distinguished British or foreign scholars whose primary interests lay in other fields who have made a contribution to British numismatics; and
3. Life-time awards to be made exceptionally to individuals whose all-round contribution and service to British Numismatics has gone well beyond that deemed appropriate for the award of the Sanford Saltus or Jeffrey North Medals.



It was also agreed that at an Ordinary Meeting at which nominations for Honorary Membership are voted upon, while proposals under 1 or 2 might be elected on a show of hands, those under 3 should always be decided with the use of a ballot box. By convention, the nomination form for an Honorary Member is signed by all Members of Council present at the meeting.

