

OBITUARY

LORD GRANTLEY

THERE has been a tendency over the last half-century for numismatics to become more and more a field for the specialist. While this has produced more scientific classification, it has necessarily restricted the interchange of ideas between numismatists, since only those fortunate enough to be able to devote their whole time to the subject could hope to have the necessary specialized knowledge of more than a comparatively limited series.

Lord Grantley was a collector, not perhaps of the eighteenth-century school which sought almost exclusively, but often uncritically, for classical rarities, but rather of the nineteenth-century school, which was prepared to collect with discernment anything of rarity and interest over a wide area of space and time. His period was the Middle Ages, and the whole of Europe was his field. As a collector of such wide interests he was known to a large circle of numismatists both at home and abroad. Wherever one's interests lay, whether in the Merovingian series or in the coins of the Crusaders or in those of this country, a visit to Weeke was sure to be productive of some fresh information.

On continental coins of the Middle Ages, of which he had a large collection, Lord Grantley was recognized as the leading authority in this country. He also had an extensive collection of English coins, especially rich in the Anglo-Saxon series. Among the latter was the Crondall hoard of one hundred gold coins of the Merovingian period, some of which were undoubtedly struck in this country, and in this respect his collection was unique. In addition he had a number of Anglo-Saxon antiquities which were dispersed a year or two before his death.

It was no doubt through his mother, who was the daughter of Signor Federigo of the island of Capri, Italy, that he acquired his love of the Continent. He travelled there extensively and sought out coins wherever he went. My first meeting with him was on the *quais* in Paris some twenty-five years ago where he was poring over a bowl of feudal deniers. Imbued with modern ideas, I asked him in what series he specialized, to which he replied: "I don't specialize: I collect everything". That was his outlook on numismatics, but it did not in any way detract from his sense of the fine and the rare.

His "finds" on these continental trips were many, but the most thrilling must have been the purchase very many years ago in Rome, for a few pounds, of a gold penny of Henry III. He always regretted having parted with this great rarity to the late Sir John Evans.

Lord Grantley was born in Florence in 1855 and was educated at Harrow and Dresden. He joined the Royal Numismatic Society in 1891 and was one of its oldest members. Of the British Numismatic

Society he was a founder member and vice-president. In spite of his wide knowledge, he was not an extensive contributor to numismatic publications. His published papers include:

British Numismatic Journal

Vol. VIII. "St. Cuthbert's 'Pennies'."

Vol. XV. "On a penny attributed to Patrick, Earl of Salisbury, in the reign of Stephen."

Vol. XVI. "On a penny of the armed-figure type with the title **C O M** in the reign of Stephen."

Vol. XIV (with L. A. Lawrence, Esq.). "On a find of French deniers and English pennies of the twelfth century."

Numismatic Chronicle

1897. "North Humbrian Coinage of A.D. 758-808."

1900. "Some unique Anglo-Saxon Coins."

1923. "Some late coins of the Crusaders."

Many numismatists will have enjoyed the hospitality of Lord and Lady Grantley at Weeke Manor, Winchester, and will have happy memories of visits there. He was courteous and considerate to young collectors, and it is as a great gentleman and collector of the old school that he will be remembered and missed by his many numismatic friends.

C. E. B.

MR. C. H. V. SUTHERLAND, of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, is engaged in compiling information on a comprehensive scale about Anglo-Saxon gold coinage of the seventh and eighth centuries. He would be very grateful for details of any such pieces in the cabinets of private collectors, so that his investigation may be as wide as possible.