

ADDRESS BY HORACE H. KING

PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Delivered at the Anniversary Meeting, 27 November 1957

DURING the two years which have elapsed since my last Presidential Address our numbers have reached and passed the 300 mark which in 1955 I said it was hoped to reach. Our roll of members now totals 310—216 ordinary, 3 honorary, 6 junior, and 85 institutional members. During the last year there have been two deaths and two resignations, so that the net gain is 27 for the year. It is pleasing to notice that not only have the numbers steadily increased but they have done so at a higher rate than the year before. But the new names are still put forward by a very few members, as was pointed out in my address of two years ago.

At the beginning of the year Mr. Dolley was Director and Acting Secretary, "Acting" since he had asked to be relieved of the Secretaryship owing to increased calls upon his time and we had not then found anyone to act in his place. Shortly afterwards Mr. I. D. Brown agreed to act and he has been Secretary for the greater part of the year. We welcome Mr. Brown in his new post and thank Mr. Dolley most sincerely for the immense amount of work he has put in so successfully in the last three years. He will continue to give us valuable service as Director if, as I cannot but feel certain will be the case, he is re-elected this evening.

Our Treasurer, Mr. Ashby, continues to keep our finances in good order. We have been fortunate in receiving in each of the last two years a donation from the British Academy of £150 to enable us to enlarge our *Journal*, particularly in the Ancient British, Saxon, and Norman periods, as these are likely to be of greater interest and assistance to historians, archaeologists, and other workers in similar fields. You will have noticed that the *Journal* has in consequence expanded from about 120 pages to about 220. We hope to be able to maintain this size but that depends largely on our being able to recruit a goodly number of new members. Let *every* member strive to bring forward the name of at least one, in 1958.

Our Librarian, Mr. Forster, tells me that he expects to finish the catalogue of our library when it moves, it is hoped in February, to the new Warburg Institute premises at the University of London, Woburn Square, when he and Mr. Carson, the Librarian of the Royal Numismatic Society, will be better able to do the work necessary, as the site is so much more central and convenient. We shall then hope to be able to publish the joint catalogue next year or at worst the year after.

The papers read at our meetings in the last two years have ranged over a long period, from Dr. Sutherland's "Diocletian's Mint at London" to Mr. Stride and Dr. Dunning's "Some Forgeries of Ormonde

Crowns", but nothing has been read on the milled series, while the articles in the *Journal* are equally silent on this subject but for the end of Mr. Stride's "The Gold Coinage of Charles II", in the *Journal* about to be published. The year 1956 began with notes by Mr. Dolley on the Dover Hoard "The First English Hoard with Groats of Edward I", "The Emergency Mint of Cadbury", "A new Mint for Æthelræd II in Lincolnshire", and "A Probable Mint at Bridgnorth". Later Dr. Sutherland read a paper on Diocletian's Mint at London, Mr. Lyon on the Northumbrian Coinage, while Mr. Schneider ended the year with "The Tower Gold of Charles I". In 1957 at the first meeting Mr. Elmore Jones gave us "The Mint 'æt Sith(m)estebyrig'" proving almost to a certainty that this hitherto elusive mint was Cissbury near Worthing and Mr. Dolley "The Mint 'æt Giothabyrig'" which made it clear that Major Carlyon-Britton's attribution to Bradwell-on-Sea could not be accepted but that, though it was at present impossible to pin-point the mint, it was somewhere in the neighbourhood of Exeter. Later in the year Dr. Peter Berghaus read a paper on "English and German Coins in the later Middle Ages", Mr. Grierson one on "A New Denomination for Alfred", Mr. I. D. Brown on "The Silver Coinage of Queen Elizabeth I", and Mr. Winstanley on "The First Coinage of King Henry VII".

I had the pleasure in June of presenting the Sanford Saltus medal to Mr. Elmore Jones. In the last ten years he has contributed to the *Journal* many papers and notes on the late Saxon and Norman coinages and has brought to light three new mints, Bramber, Hedon, and Cissbury. A well-deserved award.

We congratulate Mr. Blunt, somewhat belatedly it is true, on being elected in June last year President of the Royal Numismatic Society, in which post he will, we know, carry on the good work and distinguish himself as he did when President of this Society. Only the absence of a Presidential Address last year prevented us from formally congratulating him in better time.

Mr. Dolley has continued, thanks to the co-operation of Dr. N. Rasmusson, the keeper of the Swedish Royal collection, his examination of the Swedish hoards of Anglo-Saxon coins, which in previous years have thrown so much light on the late Anglo-Saxon period. He has made several important discoveries and writes to me from Sweden that he has more to reveal in consequence of this year's visit, a visit which is not yet over and which prevents him from being here this evening.

The National Numismatic Congress was held this year at Glasgow University on 8 June. I was unfortunately abroad at that time but I hear that it was most successful, both in attendance and in the papers read. These included Mr. Ogilvie MacKenna on "William Hunter", Miss Anne Robertson on "The Hunterian Coin Cabinet", Professor Michael Grant on "The Educational Uses of Coins", and Mr. Robert Kerr on "Rare Scottish Coins in the National Museum of Scotland".

Next year's Congress will be held at Bath under the auspices of the Bath and Bristol Numismatic Society of which our Vice-President Mr. Blunt is President. It is to be on 17 May. Papers will be read by Mr. Derek Allen, Mr. A. C. Griffin, and Mr. Blunt, and the theme will be Wessex coinages and token issues.

The British Association of Numismatic Societies has increased the number of societies affiliated to 24. Their project, to gain information as to the coins in provincial museums where many rare and even unique coins lie hidden, has reached the stage when definite action can be taken. A circular letter has been sent to 96 museums asking for information about their coins, and when the replies come in the task of properly recording the coins will be undertaken by members of their affiliated societies. The B.A.N.S. held a lecture course at Jordans hostel from 8 to 10 November at which lectures were given by Mr. Whitting on "Identifying Overstrikes" based on the Byzantine bronze series, by Mr. Carson on "Roman Mint Organization", by Mr. Osborne on "Dies and Die-sequences", and by Mr. J. G. Pollard, of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, on "The Making of Coin Casts".

The first volume of the *Sylloge of the Coins of the British Isles*, which is being published under the auspices of the British Academy, will appear in a few weeks. It covers the Ancient British and Anglo-Saxon coins in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and will be followed in 1958 by the same periods in the Hunter and Coats collections at the University of Glasgow.

You will see by the "fixture card", which you will receive in a week or two, that we are moving our place of meeting to the new Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, in April when the first meeting there will be held on Wednesday, 23 April. Thereafter, as the Warburg Institute cannot arrange for the fourth Wednesday owing to other bookings, meetings will be held on the fourth *Tuesday* in each month except July, August, November, and December. The November meeting, being the Anniversary Meeting, will be held on Tuesday, the 25th, as the 30th when we generally hold it is a Sunday.

I cannot bring this review of the past year to an end without expressing my thanks to all the officers of the Society and to the Council for their consistent support and help. Without that, for I was abroad for two months at the beginning of the year, I could not have carried out my duties even as ill as I have.