

## REVIEWS

*Celtic Coinage: Britain and Beyond. The Eleventh Oxford Symposium on Coinage and Monetary History*, edited by M. Mays. BAR British Series 222 (Oxford 1992). 302 pp., 12 plates.

THIS welcome volume makes available sixteen papers given at the Oxford symposium in 1989, and represents an indication of the renaissance which has taken place in the study of Iron Age coinage during the last few years. Both the volume itself and the review of publications helpfully given in the Introduction illustrate the work that has been completed or is in progress and the range of approaches being followed today.

A volume of conference proceedings is, like a Festschrift, not easy to review, as the articles cover a very broad range of material without pretending to be comprehensive in their treatment of the subject as a whole. Curiously enough, we hear less of the coinage of the 'core' areas than of the 'periphery'. Reviews are given of the coinage of the Corieltavi (May) and the Iceni (Creighton – but now see his article in *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*), while some of the articles are devoted to iconography (Scheers, Green) or to new discoveries, such as the Icenian silver coin hoard from Stonea (Chadburn), the new types from the Snettisham hoard and Bury (Gregory), the peculiar scyphate gold 'coins' from Humberside and Lincolnshire (May) or fractional billon from western Gaul (Gruel and Taccoen).

Other than this, the volume seems to me to offer three principal recurrent themes. One is the importance of the analysis of the metals used to produce the coinage. Two long articles by Northover and Cowell present the results of a very large number of analyses of British Celtic coins, and it is clear that it will be necessary for all future scholars to return constantly to these pages of results and their helpful commentary. Indeed a number of the other articles in the volume allude to the metal composition of the coins they discuss, and it should now be possible to put our understanding of the metals on a solid basis. This is certainly true of the gold, where we can now see in some detail how the purity of the earlier coins declined (but are we sure that debasement is an index of chronology?) until it stabilised with the copper rich metal (red gold) used by the later dynastic and inscribed issues. Cowell's paper is explicitly concerned with gold alone, but Northover looks at silver and bronze as well. In the case of silver and bronze (and also brass), however, it is clear that more work is needed to establish the standards that were used. We may be reasonably sure that the later silver used north and south of the Thames was almost pure (see also the additional analyses now published in the report of the Wanborough hoard: C. Cheesman, *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 82 (1994), p. 92), but the standard(s) in use by the 'peripheral' coinages are less clear.

Secondly, there is a due emphasis on looking at coins in their full archaeological context. Two articles consider this aspect. One, by Malacher and Collis, considers the evidence of French sites in the Auvergne, and it is perhaps no accident that this should be so, given the strong emphasis placed on this approach in France (see, for example, K. Gruel, *La monnaie chez les Gaulois*). The leading proponent of this approach in this country is Colin Haselgrove, who, both in his book *Iron Age Coinage in South-East England: the Archaeological Context* (1987), and his article in this volume reminds us of its value, whether it is for the dating of potin coinage or the interpretation of single gold coins. In a quite startling concluding passage to his article, Haselgrove advocates the seeking out of coins from clearly defined deposits as an important source for future investigation. However, one feels that, though such material will come and is coming to light, it will be not so much as a result of excavation as of metal-detecting (compare Gregory's remarks on pp. 48–9), and so of only limited value to the type of study advocated by Haselgrove.

The third general theme which emerges from the volume is the way one should approach the question of how to interpret the material. A partial answer has already been given, namely the archaeological context. But there is also the issue of the conceptual approach we should use in addressing monetary and economic discussions of Britain in the hundred years from Caesar to Claudius. Van Arsdell, in his article (and indeed in his recently published monograph on the Dobunni) continues to treat the coinage as if it formed part of a modern market economy where concepts such as money supply and credit have full relevance. A very different approach is adopted by others, in particular in the article by Fitzpatrick, who addresses some of the same questions as van Arsdell but comes up with a very different set of answers, emphasising that the social structures of Celtic society may well imply different attitudes to coinage and wealth. Generally speaking, his approach seems much more convincing, although he does at times write in fairly opaque language ('culture creates the political in a reflexive relation and the material world is used to guide these actions'!).

All in all, this volume indicates a healthy future for Celtic numismatics. Whilst it is important to keep abreast of new discoveries (the Celtic Coin Index and the publication of new material in the Coin Register of this journal are crucial) and to continue with traditional numismatic studies of the material, we should, however, be aware of the intrinsic limitations of these approaches and concentrate more on the types of integrated archaeological and sociological approaches mentioned above.

ANDREW BURNETT

*The Coinage of the Dobunni: Money Supply and Coin Circulation in Dobunnic Territory*, by Robert D. Van Arsdell, with a Gazetteer of Findspots by Philip de Jersey, *Studies in Celtic Coinage*, Number 1, Oxford University Committee for Archaeology, Monograph 38 (Oxford, 1994), 84 pp, 2 plates, paperback.

THIS slender volume is in two parts, both of which contain useful technical information. The first (pp. 1–65), by Robert Van Arsdell, presents a summary of his own classification of Dobunnic coinage, with maps and diagrams, and an essay (pp. 34 ff.) on Dobunnic money supply, based on 733 coins studied before October 1989 (p. 7). It replaces two articles (nos. 13 and 15) cited as forthcoming in his *Celtic Coinage of Britain* (London, 1989). The second part, by Philip de Jersey (pp. 67–84), lists all provenanced Dobunnic coins recorded by 1992 in the Celtic Coin Index at the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford. The whole book went to press before the enormous Pershore hoard, mainly of Dobunnic silver coins, was available for study.

It is not made clear until p. 67 that the two parts of this book are in fact unconnected: Mr Van Arsdell's maps are not based on Dr de Jersey's Gazetteer. They even use different classificatory systems, without a concordance to resolve confusions. The Gazetteer follows the VA system for gold coinage, but both Gazetteer and the Plates follow the older, Allen classification for silver, rearranged in VA order. Thus, in Van Arsdell's text the coinage of Bodvoc (p. 14) is classed as Dobunnic C. In the Plates, Dobunnic C is not Bodvoc, and Bodvoc is not Dobunnic C. More seriously, there is an interesting discussion of coinage conventionally known as 'Dobunnic Irregular', referred to as such by Mr Van Arsdell (p. 8). There is no mention of 'Dobunnic Irregulars' in either Gazetteer or Plates. The present reviewer had to resort to the VA/Allen concordance in Van Arsdell 1989 to discover that 'Dobunnic Irregulars' are in fact the coins listed in Gazetteer and Plates under their alias of (Allen) Dobunnic M, N, and O.

Mr Van Arsdell aims to trace the vicissitudes of Dobunnic gold supply through an analysis of their coinage (pp. 34 ff). He gives a clear account of the methods he has used, and there are copious lists and diagrams to illustrate his findings. This is all very useful, and it is good to see it published. Although his figures are based upon metal analysis of a very small number of coins, Mr Van Arsdell reports suggestive evidence for successive debasements of gold coinage, and has attempted to calculate the original amount of gold bullion the surviving coins may represent, with hints at marked fluctuations over time.

His conclusions do, however, require close scrutiny, as he sometimes misleads. On p. 16 he argues that since more coins of Antedrig were found at Bath than at Camerton, Bath was a major Dobunnic centre (*cf.* p. 26). Precisely two coins of Antedrig were found at Bath, both in the highly anomalous context of the deposit in the Sacred Spring. On p. 21, he makes

inferences from the 'large number of [Dobunnic] coins found in Essex and Lincolnshire': seven such coins exist (p. 23). On pp. 16 and 21 he makes a case, based on trend surface maps, for correcting D.F. Allen's perception that coins of Bodvoc (VA Dobunnic C) and Catti (VA Dobunnic G) tend to concentrate in the northern part of Dobunnic territory. A comparison of scatter distribution maps 7 and 9 (Corio and Bodvoc) and maps 15 and 17 (Eisu and Catti) actually suggest that Allen's perception has been vindicated.

Mr Van Arsdell's reliance on trend surface maps as a heuristic tool in fact arouses grave misgivings. He sees coins as somehow flowing over the landscape like paint (pp. 12, 18, 27), and concentric contours link widely separated places with similar densities of coins per unit of area to produce illusory maps that iron out and conceal the real – and interesting – unevenness in actual geographical distributions. He makes due allowance for open sea, into which coins do not 'flow', but none, apparently, for other features that affect the activities of people (who must have taken the coins to wherever they were found), such as hills, forests, marshes – or political boundaries. All of these create meaningful discontinuities in the distribution pattern of Iron Age coinage. Useful attention is drawn to possible areas of no-man's land (p. 25), but the extraordinary map offered on p. 24 does not inspire confidence.

Finally, Mr Van Arsdell is guided in his analysis by some bold undefended assumptions about the Dobunni. He sees them as a peaceful (p. 18), active trading people (p. 1) with a money economy (p. 40), although their 'small change' silver coinage was unimportant and can be ignored when attempting an econometric analysis (p. 35). (Gold) money was apparently widely used, the government made plans for the money supply (pp. 33, 41), and 'the public' (p. 33) influenced such plans. The mint's responsibilities included confiscating gold from the money supply (pp. 2, 41), 'Shipments' of bullion were exported and imported (pp. 38, 40, 41), and the coins that 'stud' trade routes (p. 26) illuminate Dobunnic trading relationships (*passim*). Money circulates in unspecified ways (p. 36) and is driven out of circulation by purely economic forces (p. 40). A conjectured episode of inflation was caused by 'injection of massive numbers of stater into the money supply' (p. 42). Mr Van Arsdell would like to conduct a modern econometric analysis of this almost undocumented prehistoric society's 'money supply, velocity of money, rate of inflation, and the value of credit-based and non-monetary transactions', 'the value of goods and services produced, the value of transfer payments, and the balance of trade' (p. 34), though he does concede that 'the analysis is hampered by a number of difficulties' (*ibid.*). Significantly, he seems puzzled that Eisu might withdraw Comux's coinage (p. 41). Few students of the late pre-Roman Iron Age would be so surprised; they might suppose, for instance, that he had ordinary power-political motives for so doing.

DAPHNE NASH BRIGGS

*The Reign of Cnut*, edited by Alexander Rumble. Leicester University Press, 1994. 341 pp., photographs, figures and tables.

IN his introduction, Alexander Rumble contrasts the lack of formal historical writing on Cnut's reign with the wealth of non-documentary primary sources and the sciences which have been developed around them in recent years. Amongst these, numismatics has a large part to play, and over a quarter of the book is devoted to numismatic subjects, but perhaps more importantly, the whole volume, the outcome of a conference held in Manchester in 1990, stresses the mutual advantage in interaction between the various disciplines.

Thus several of the papers draw directly on numismatic material. David Hill, in discussing Cnut's urban policy, refers to new mints as illustrating the growth of towns in England, and to a greater extent in Denmark. Gillian Fellows-Jensen draws on evidence from coin legends in her discussion of the chronology and significance of the contracted form *-kel* or *-kil* of the name element *-ketil*. She refers to 'a number of coins of Æthelred' as giving early instances of this contraction before it appears in charters. The reference to STENCIL or STGNCIL in *Helmet* appears to be safe but at the risk of making numismatics seem dangerous ground and so defeating the object of this symposium, one has to advise caution with regard to ASCIL. This supposedly London moneyer's output shows some very suspicious die-linking patterns, as noted in *SCBI* 7, and most of the forms of the name are dubious, although the ASCIL dies in Hildebrand could be of English manufacture. The fact that the contracted form is rare, and then later, on Anglo-Saxon coins, would fit in well with Fellows-Jensen's suggestion that the contracted form was more likely to have been borne by eleventh-century immigrants, since the lack of influence of the Cnutian settlement on the moneyers is in marked contrast to the new aristocracy discussed in Simon Keynes' paper. Peter Sawyer and Niels Lund both discuss Cnut's Scandinavian empire, politically and economically. Both refer to the problematical context of Cnut's Scandinavian coinages, in particular the pennies upon which he is apparently proclaimed king of the Swedes.

Kenneth Jonsson provides a very useful review of the coinage of the reign, both in England and Denmark. He demonstrates the decline in numbers both of recorded coins and of moneyers at the English mints as the reign progressed, and the imposition of centralised die-cutting from the position of maximum localisation which even exceeded what was inherited from Æthelred. Cnut's assertion of control over local interests must have taken place within the period of issue of *Pointed Helmet*, where the evidence for the eclipse of the York and East Midland centres is very clear. In Denmark, Jonsson suggests that Cnut may originally have meant to keep pace with the English coinage, but had to abandon it c. 1026 for a less cohesive pattern.

Numismatists may find this volume of particular

interest in that it contains the publication of the Cnut reverse coin die discovered in the spoil from the Thames Exchange site in London. Before the late 1970s no die used in the Anglo-Saxon coinage had been discovered, and received wisdom was that none was likely to be, given the degree of security which must have surrounded them. There was therefore great excitement when the St Peter and Æthelstan dies were discovered in York, but since then another Anglo-Saxon and no less than three Norman dies have all been recovered by treasure hunters sifting through dumped soil from this site at the mouth of the Walbrook, on the north bank of the Thames adjacent to Southwark Bridge. Technically, the most interesting discovery is the notching which shows that provision was made for new heads to be fitted to existing irons. Several X-ray photographs and diagrams show how the die was made; the shank shows far more wear than the face, suggesting this was not the first face to be fitted.

New discoveries often pose as many problems as they solve. Has this die been used to strike coins? – we have no surviving examples. Had it been to Norwich, its declared mint, or was it considered erroneous and never left London? If so, why has it not been defaced or removed from the iron? We can accept a hitherto unknown moneyer for Norwich; as Elizabeth Pirie points out in her contribution, two out of the four Short Cross Norwich moneyers are only known for the one type.

But what was that moneyer's name? The 'computer drawing' gives the legend clearly as DRVLF. It is not stated how this drawing was generated, but it appears to correspond to what is visible in the photographs. The author Michael O'Hara, however, consistently refers to the name as DRVLF and makes the assumption that it is inevitably a Scandinavian name in *Thor-Thur-*. His list of comparative forms scrambles two quite separate names: Scand. *Thurulfr* from the god's name, and OE *Deor(w)ulf* from OE *deore*- 'dear'. Certainly the two consonants can become confused both in die-cutting and legibility, but it seems disingenuous to support the favoured *Thor-* interpretation by listing with initial Ð DIAR-, DEOR- forms which *SCBI* 34 correctly publishes with D. Also the supposed DEORLAF at Chester is DEORLAF and not even an *-ulf* name as the etymon is OE *-laf*, 'survivor, son', whilst DEODVLF is a CG name from *Theod-* 'people, nation'. The remarks on a Scandinavian presence in Norfolk are quite valid in themselves, but the possibility should have at least been aired that the new moneyer was called *Deor(w)ulf*, an OE name like his four Norwich colleagues in the type and three-quarters of all the Norwich moneyers. Smoothing of the diphthong to a single vowel would be quite regular at this time, and hence its omission as plausible as V, whilst to suppose D must really stand for Ð requires a further error. However, apart from the philological confusion, it is excellent to have this important artefact so comprehensively published.

VERÓNICA SMART

*Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles 40. Royal Coin Cabinet, Stockholm Part IV. Anglo-Saxon Coins: Harold I and Harthacnut, 1035–1042*, by Tuukka Talvio. Published for the British Academy by Oxford University Press and Spink & Son Limited, 1991. xii + (2) + 199 + (1)pp, incl. 74 photo plates.

The coins struck for Harold I and Harthacnut, the rival half-brothers who contended for the succession to the English kingdom of their father Cnut, are the least familiar to the average British numismatist of any of the English coinages of the Viking age. Such a statement may seem mildly surprising, for it is not difficult to discover the types, mints and moneyers recorded for each regnal name during the years 1035–42, and a suggested chronology for the Jewel Cross, Fleur de Lys and Arm and Sceptre types set out in the mid 1950s by the late Michael Dolley and the late Peter Seaby has proved broadly acceptable. As, however, most of the surviving coins derive from Scandinavian coin hoards and have remained in Scandinavian museum collections, numismatists in Britain have lacked any real grasp of what are rarities or important varieties within the series, and it is only with the appearance of the present volume that the student can properly appreciate the interest and extent of the issues of the sons of Cnut.

Of the 2063 coins published by Tuukka Talvio, 689 are of Jewel Cross type (90 in the name of Harthacnut, 18 with Harthacnut's name in the shortened form 'Cnut', and 581 in the name of Harold), 874 are of Fleur de Lys type (all but one in the name of Harold), and 491 are of Arm and Sceptre type (180 in the name of Harthacnut and 311 in the name 'Cnut'), the remaining nine coins being mules or curiosities. By comparison, our own national collection contained in 1986, as Talvio has calculated elsewhere, only 335 coins of all these types put together, and of these just eighteen are of the historically significant issue of Jewel Cross coins in the name of Harthacnut or 'Cnut'. This *SCBI* volume is thus central to an understanding of the coinage of the period. It is an additional pleasure that it has been compiled by Talvio with such apparently effortless efficiency that there is hardly a blemish to which the present reviewer can point. Present or future specialists may in time be able to add to the die-links which Talvio has noted between coins of different reigns and mints (Stewart Lyon's discovery of a few while reading Talvio's manuscript is duly acknowledged), and some of the cut halfpence have yet to be fully identified. But such tasks can be done gradually, and what catch the eye at present are more obvious puzzles. What, for example, is the rationale for the existence of a single coin in the name of Harold which is struck from obverse and reverse dies of the Short Cross type of his father Cnut? Where was Harthacnut's mint DENM, recorded from a single reverse die of Jewel Cross type of a moneyer Leofric, which is found in combination with an obverse die also ostensibly used by the Lincoln moneyer Hildulf and by the Stamford moneyer Godric? These are questions

which still require definitive answers, but Talvio has already provided a simple and convincing explanation for the fact that some coins of Jewel Cross type have left-facing busts and others right-facing busts. It turns out that the reason for this is neither chronological nor closely related to the geographical locations of the mints where the coins were struck, but has to do with the organisation of die-cutting, dies cut in Harthacnut's name at Winchester carrying right-facing busts, and dies cut in both kings' names at London carrying left-facing busts.

HUGH PAGAN

*The Norweb Collection, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A., Tokens of the British Isles 1575–1750. Part IV Norfolk to Somerset*, by R.H. Thompson and M.J. Dickinson. *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles 44*. Spink and Son Ltd., London, 1993. 218pp, illustrated. £25.

THE first *sylloge* volume on the unparalleled Norweb collection of seventeenth-century trade tokens appeared in 1984. Nine years further on in this major publication programme Part IV has been published, featuring the counties of Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Rutland, Shropshire and Somerset.

As the curator responsible for the collection of seventeenth-century trade tokens held by the Somerset County Museums Service, I have awaited publication of part IV with interest; partly for the book and the data it contains and partly because its appearance means the release for sale of the Norweb Somerset tokens. The private collector may not whole-heartedly agree, but the Norweb family in association with Spinks are to be applauded for their decision to allow the British Museum, followed by the major provincial museums, the opportunity to acquire specimens before placing the tokens on the open market. The pieces thus acquired, inevitably the rarer issues, significantly strengthen the reference collections which are in the public domain and accessible to all. This opportunity was especially welcome in Somerset, as it is many years since a gap was filled in our very fine collection. Numbers of pieces acquired by museums were quite modest, leaving many private collectors an unparalleled chance to develop their own collections.

The authors state that 'the purpose of the publication, in accordance with the *Sylloge* practice, is to put the tokens in the Norweb Collection at the service of those who would base studies on them, and not itself to publish documentary research, something which, on a national basis, would hardly have been possible'. The detailed format precisely follows that of the earlier parts and admirably fulfils the authors' objectives of providing a research database, including weight, metal and die-axis. The quality of the plates is generally good, an achievement for these difficult-to-photograph objects. Many are certainly good enough to allow die comparisons. Where images are less clear, it is usually a reflection of the condition of the token concerned.

Much work remains to be done on seventeenth-century trade tokens, not only on the pieces themselves, but also on their issuers. Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Oxfordshire stand out for the documentary research undertaken on token issuers. For many counties minimal work has been undertaken on this painstaking but rewarding aspect. Tokens frequently occur as chance finds, particularly since the advent of the metal-detector, and recording of such finds would ultimately help shed light on their circulation. It is sincerely hoped that publication of the Norweb collection will provide the stimulus for an extension and broadening of research into the series.

The tokens of one issuer receive more detailed treatment. In a chapter entitled 'The Legend of the Glastonbury Thorn' the two tokens of Glastonbury mercer Henry Gutch are considered. Since at least 1858 the image on the obverse has been unquestioningly accepted as a representation of the Glastonbury Thorn. Robert Thompson convincingly argues that this token has always been looked at upside down and that it is in fact a view of Glastonbury's main landmark, the Tor. A minor detail perhaps, but unrecognised for 135 years.

The authors, publishers and Norweb family are to be congratulated for this volume, and future parts are keenly awaited.

STEPHEN MINNITT

*Medallic Portraits of the Duke of Wellington.* by Christopher Eimer, (London, 1994). 138 pp with illustrations in text, paperback. ISBN 0 903605 52 4.

IDOLISED by the people, the first Duke of Wellington has the largest group of personal medals in the British series with the exception of the royal family. This paperback, however, is the first catalogue to treat the subject seriously within the context of Wellington memorabilia. The first iconography of the duke by Lord Gerald Wellesley and John Steegman in 1935 concentrated on paintings and larger sculpture. A more recent study of Regency portraits by Richard Walker in 1985 makes only passing reference to the medals.

Most of the duke's portrait medals were produced in the nineteenth century, but a few very recent productions are mentioned and illustrated in the introduction. The earliest medals of Wellington relate to his victories in the Peninsular war, and their principal sources are wax profiles by Catherine Andras and Carlo Amatucci and busts in the round by Laurence Gahagan and Joseph Nollekens. The author maintains that there is no record of a portrait of Wellington having been taken expressly for a medal. Instead the images are borrowed from other artists and medallists, and Eimer provides numerous cross-references, both in the introduction and in the catalogue proper. It would have been useful to have a comparative index of the portraits on the medals and tokens to see which ones might be grouped together to identify the maker and source. The introduction provides an overview of the subject, with a calendar of the principal events in Wellington's life.

The medal and token collector previously turned for information to Brown's *British Historical Medals* which lists about one third of those medals in Eimer, to Forrer's *Biographical Dictionary of Medallists* and to Braamsen's *Medaillier Napoleon le Grand*. Other references are contained either in the standard references on tokens, eg. Charlton, Davis and Bell, or in auction catalogues that are not so easy to find, such as the Julius and Prince d'Essling collections. The medals, medallets, plaques and tokens which bear Wellington's portrait, whether of British or foreign manufacture, have been amalgamated into a useful resource book for the student and collector. Medallic designs and sketches are also illustrated where they have survived.

The first 203 items catalogued are medals or large medallic memorial plaques, such as those of 1853 by George Adams, and by Jeannest for Elkington & Co. The medals are listed chronologically, and a summary of contents is given on pages 15–16. Each medal is fully described and illustrated with an indication of rarity (but no price guide). Many items were previously unrecorded, and several of the items newly illustrated are in private collections, as recorded in the comprehensive list at the back of the book.

The book ends with a section devoted to tokens bearing Wellington's portrait, divided into two parts: 1812–1825, starting with the Irish series and the Peninsular war tokens, and 1850–1900, including local English, Australian, New Zealand and unattributed non-local pub checks and advertising tokens. As Chief Secretary for Ireland and one of her most favoured sons, Wellington was a natural choice for the token coinage produced during a period of shortage of small change. His laureate head imitating a coin of ancient Rome is the favourite image on these tokens, unlike the bareheaded contemporary profiles on most of the medals. Finally there is a glossary of numismatic terms and abbreviations, useful to the non-specialist historian. An index of inscriptions and an index of artists, medallists and publishers is also given.

This new work is a starting point in researching Wellington medals and tokens, with a helpful bibliography. As the catalogue is almost fully illustrated it makes identification simple, and the notes are helpful digests of previous research with, in addition, some previously unrecorded items. For research purposes the literature cited will usually contain many more details, with the correspondence printed in full. For example, Eimer throws into doubt the area of circulation of some of the most common Wellington tokens, those listing his battles in the Peninsular war (nos 243–244, not local 1812). He states that there is no evidence to support the notion that they were used in Spain, but does not proffer an alternative, except to note that they were made in such large numbers and sustained such an amount of wear that they must have circulated in a wider area and over a longer period of time. Previous commentators describe these as having been issued by John Kirkby Picard through Thomason for distribution by the army. Although Davis is the primary source for

the author's notes on these tokens, Eimer cites Charlton & Courteau as references but does not mention that the tokens are considered part of the Canadian series.

The clear layout and format of the catalogue make it easy to use for anyone interested in this period of history and subject, not just for the numismatist. It is sure to find its place on many bookshelves and be referred to with pleasure.

F.M. SIMMONS

*The First Dictionary of Paranomismatica*, edited by Brian Edge. Published privately by the author, 1991. Octavo, 206 pp, many illustrations. Obtainable from Brian Edge, 48 Woodside Avenue, Wistaston, Crewe, CW2 8AN.

THE term 'paranomismatica' has been used increasingly in recent years to cover various classes of item which are otherwise difficult to classify, but it seems probable that not everyone using the word agrees on its exact definition. It is easy enough to identify what is not included, i.e. coins and other legal tender issued by recognised national authorities, but more difficult to list all the categories of item which can fairly be described as paranomismatica. The editor of this book settles on the definition as 'any coin-like object which is not a coin, produced in metal, plastic etc., normally unofficial, and bearing an inscription, either with or without a value'. This is a valiant attempt, if one which can still be shown to be inadequate on occasions. Medal enthusiasts may well argue that the study of commemorative medals has long been an accepted part of mainstream numismatics, and some jetons, for instance, do not bear inscriptions.

For the time being most people will no doubt care little about the definition, as long as their own field of interest is not ignored, and this is an accusation which few will be able to level at Brian Edge. The two aspects which strike the reader of this book immediately are the wide variety of categories of material included and, no less, the large number of people who have devoted time to research and publication in such apparently unfashionable fields. No less than forty-one contributors are acknowledged by the editor, and the extensive bibliographies provided under the various headings include very many more names.

The book is divided into two sections, namely 'The Main Collecting Groups' and 'Other Paranomismatica', with categories listed alphabetically within each. It is not entirely clear why this approach was adopted, since the division seems somewhat arbitrary at times. It seems likely, for instance, that the 'Puffin coinage' of Lundy Island, here banished to section two, is represented in more collections than such items as Cornish sack tokens or coal-mining lamp tokens, both included in section one. The mention of these items gives a clue to the wide range covered by the book, however, and it is this which is its greatest strength. Ninety-three separate categories are included, ranging from major fields of study, such as trade tokens,

commemorative medals and jetons, which comprise countless different varieties of individual issues, to almost single-variety categories, such as membership tickets for Ally Sloper's Half Holiday Club. Although most of the subject matter is of British origin, some foreign items are included, e.g. French Emergency Tokens, German *Notmünzen* and Naval Tokens, and Swedish coinage of necessity, or 'Goertz Dalers', dating from 1715-9.

The size and scope of the book is such that only a brief introduction to the major categories is possible, but the bibliographies are long enough to provide all the necessary pointers for those who wish to explore a particular field more deeply. A total of eighty-nine references are given for trade tokens, for instance. The many photographs scattered throughout the text are mostly clear, although sometimes not particularly well reproduced, no doubt for quite understandable reasons of cost.

This is a book which should be in the reference library of every museum in Britain, as it will provide an invaluable source of information for curators in dealing with all those miscellaneous coin-like items which are brought in for identification. In addition, it can be heartily recommended to anyone who has an interest in the byways of numismatics and enjoys rummaging in dealers' junk-boxes for unusual and interesting items.

N.M. McQ. HOLMES

*The Tokens, Checks, Metallic Tickets, Passes and Tallies of Wales 1800-1993: Two hundred years of Welsh Paranomismatic History*, by Noel and Alan Cox. Cardiff 1994. A5 case-bound £25 ISBN 0 9523705 0 6.

THIS book is a survey of checks, tickets, passes and tallies issued in Wales. The main exceptions are pub checks, which have been covered by other publications, mining tallies, which undoubtedly deserve a volume of their own, and school attendance medals. In contrast to many works on this subject, this is a quality, hardback production. Most important of all, the majority of the thousand or so checks catalogued are illustrated.

The book is divided into three parts. Part 1 is a miscellaneous section, ranging through advertising tickets and barber's checks to market tallies, military checks, transport tokens, truck tickets and many other types. Part 2 deals solely with checks issued by the workingmen's clubs and institutes, and Part 3 with checks issued by co-operative societies. There is a short introductory section which includes some information on the check makers. Each section has an index, though there is no overall index.

Parts 2 and 3 in particular are valuable contributions to the scholarship of their series. Workingmen's club checks in a sense took over from pub checks in the valleys of South Wales. Many examples date to the inter-war depression years and continued in use, sometimes replaced by paper draw tickets in very recent times. Research to date suggests that they may have been more common in South Wales than in other

industrialised areas. Equivalent coverage of club checks issued in northern England would facilitate comparative study, so that explanations for distributional differences could be sought. Information on co-op checks is often scattered, and this Welsh corpus with its listing of retail co-operative societies in Wales is very welcome.

The majority of the checks, tickets and tallies used in Wales were made in Birmingham, and, sadly for Welsh numismatists, doubt can even be cast on the two Wales-based die-sinkers cited in this volume. Edgar Newby of Cardiff is merely described as an 'engraver' in directories. The Tonypandy pub check mentioned as bearing the Newby signature on its obverse shares a reverse with unsigned pub checks issued in Birmingham, Redruth, Weston-Super-Mare and South Wales. The Birmingham-centred distribution of these checks suggests that Newby was ordering pieces from

one of the more prolific Birmingham makers, who placed Newby's name on the obverse of the signed check as the supplier. Newby's listing as 'engraver' may merely imply engraving carried out on jewellery and trophies. The Spiridion firm, whose name appears on two checks, were goldsmiths and silversmiths, retail jewellers and watch and clock makers. There is no indication that they were anything other than occasional retail suppliers of checks, though their names appeared on the pieces so that re-orders would be placed via their firm, a common practice at the time.

Noel and Alan Cox are to be congratulated on this volume, which is a fine addition to the growing literature on post-1800 tokens. It is to be hoped that it inspires similar coverage of checks, tickets and tallies in other parts of Britain.

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