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2010

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE BRITISH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, 2009

### PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY

1903–08	P.W.P. Carlyon-Britton, DL, FSA
1909	W.J. Andrew, FSA
1910–14	P.W.P. Carlyon-Britton, DL, FSA
1915–19	Lt-Col H.W. Morrieson, RA, FSA
1920–21	F.A. Walters, FSA
1922 (until 22 June)	J. Sanford Saltus
1922 (from 28 June)	G.R. Francis, FSA
1923–25	G.R. Francis, FSA
1926–27	Major W.J. Freer, VD, DL, FSA
1928 (until 20 February)	P.W.P. Carlyon-Britton, DL, FSA
1928 (from 22 February)	Lt-Col H.W. Morrieson, RA, FSA
1929–32	Lt-Col H.W. Morrieson, RA, FSA
1933–37	V.B. Crowther-Beynon, MBE, MA, FSA
1938–45	H.W. Taffs, MBE
1946–50	C.E. Blunt, OBE, FSA
1951–54	E.J. Winstanley, LDS
1955–58	H.H. King, MA
1959–63	D.F. Allen, BA, FBA, FSA
1964–65	C.W. Peck, FPS, FSA
1966–70	C.S.S. Lyon, MA, FIA
1971–75	S.E. Rigold, MA, FSA
1976–80	P. Woodhead, FSA
1981–83	J.D. Brand, MA, FCA
1984–88	H.E. Pagan, MA, FSA
1989–93	C.E. Challis, BA, PhD, FSA, FRHistS
1994–98	G.P. Dyer, BSc(Econ), DGA
1999–2003	D.W. Dykes, MA, PhD, FSA, FRHistS
2004–08	M.A.S. Blackburn, PhD, FSA
2008–	R.J. Eaglen, MA, LL.M., PhD, FSA

### JOHN SANFORD SALTUS MEDAL

This medal is awarded triennially to ‘the person, being a member of the Society or not, who shall receive the highest number of votes from the Members as having in their opinion made the scholarly contribution to British numismatics most deserving of public recognition, as evidenced by published work or works, whether in the *British Numismatic Journal* or elsewhere’, by ballot of all the members.

The medal was founded by the late John Sanford Saltus, Officer de la Légion d’Honneur, a President of the Society, by gift of £200 in the year 1910.

#### Medallists:

1910	P.W.P. Carlyon-Britton	1938	W.C. Wells
1911	Helen Farquhar	1941	C.A. Whitton
1914	W.J. Andrew	1944	(not awarded)
1917	L.A. Lawrence	1947	R.C. Lockett
1920	Lt-Col H.W. Morrieson	1950	C.E. Blunt
1923	H.A. Parsons	1953	D.F. Allen
1926	G.R. Francis	1956	F. Elmore Jones
1929	J.S. Shirley-Fox	1959	R.H.M. Dolley
1932	C. Winter	1962	H.H. King
1935	R. Carlyon-Britton	1965	H. Schneider
		1968	E.J. Winstanley
		1971	C.W. Peck (posthumous award)
		1971	B.H.I.H. Stewart (later Lord Stewartby)
		1974	C.S.S. Lyon
		1978	S.E. Rigold
		1981	Marion M. Archibald
		1984	D.M. Metcalf
		1987	Joan E.L. Murray
		1990	H.E. Pagan
		1993	C.E. Challis
		1996	J.J. North
		1997	P. Grierson (special award)
		1999	R.H. Thompson
		2002	E.M. Besly
		2005	P. Woodhead
		2008	M.A.S. Blackburn

**BLUNT PRIZE**

This prize was instituted in 1986 as the Council Prize but its name was changed in 2005 to mark the outstanding contribution to the Society and to British Numismatics made by Christopher Evelyn Blunt (1904–87). The prize takes the form of a triennial cash award to an individual, whether a member of the Society or not, who has made a recent significant contribution to the study of numismatics which falls within the Society's remit. Its purpose is principally to encourage younger scholars, and therefore preference is given to suitable candidates under 35 years of age.

*Recipients:*

1987	M.A.S. Blackburn
1990	E.M. Besly
1993	B.J. Cook
1996	M.R. Allen
1999	P. de Jersey
2002	K. Clancy
2005	S. Bhandare
2008	T. Crafter

**NORTH BOOK PRIZE**

The North Book Prize, established in 2006 with a generous donation by Jeffrey North, is awarded every two years for the best book on British Numismatics.

Books eligible for consideration for the prize are those published during the current or three preceding calendar years, copies of which have been received by the joint library of the British Numismatic Society and the Royal Numismatic Society for review.

*Recipients:*

2006	M.R. Allen for <i>The Durham Mint</i> (London, 2003)
2008	R.J. Eaglen for <i>The Abbey and Mint of Bury St Edmunds to 1279</i> (London, 2006)

**JEFFREY NORTH MEDAL FOR SERVICES TO NUMISMATICS**

The Jeffrey North Medal for exceptional services to British Numismatics was established with a generous gift from Jeffrey North in 2008. It is awarded by Council 'to members of the Society or others in recognition of outstanding services to British numismatics, whether in the UK or overseas'.

*Recipients:*

2008	J. Bispham
2008	M. Bonser
2008	C.R.S. Farthing
2008	A.J. Holmes
2010	K. Sugden
2010	P. and Bente R. Withers

**PROCEEDINGS 2009**

All meetings during the year were held at the Warburg Institute and the President, Dr R.J. Eaglen, was in the chair throughout, except for 24 March, which was chaired by Hugh Pagan (Vice-President).  
(For Officers and Council for 2009, see Volume 79)

**27 JANUARY 2009.** Messrs Edward Fletcher, George Lionel William Molyneaux, Graham Birnie Soeder and Mark Frederick Winiger were elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. Council noted the deaths of F.E. Jennings and D.P. White with sadness. Dr Martin Allen then read a paper entitled *The English coinage in the 1120s and 1150s: interrupted continuity?*

**24 FEBRUARY 2009.** Messrs Andrew Brannon, Barrington Richard Eastick, Edmund Goldshinsky, Michael Lee Smith and Alastair Thomas James Wardle were elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. The President announced that Council had nominated for Honorary Membership Harrington (Harry) E. Manville. Megan Gooch had been co-opted as a member of Council. The President announced with sadness the death of Raymond Stewart Hilton, a member of the society since 2006, on 21 November 2008. Council had agreed that volume 79 of the *British Numismatic Journal*, for 2009, should be dedicated to Peter Woodhead, in honour of his eightieth birthday. The President further announced a change to the planned programme for the April meeting. Graham Dyer was awaiting an operation and regretfully could not give his paper on this occasion. There would be an evening of two or three short presentations on modern topics instead. Philip de Jersey then read a paper entitled *Sir John Evans and the coins of the Ancient Britons*.

**24 MARCH 2009.** Hugh Pagan, Vice-President, was in the chair. Professor Robert Schichler was elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. Council noted the death of P. Bagwell Purefoy on 7 February 2009 with sadness. Rory Naismith then read a paper entitled *Kings, mints and currency in southern England c.750–c.865*.

**28 APRIL 2009.** Messrs Nedelcho Ivanov Nedelchev and Andrew Richard Woods were elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. Council noted the death of Charles MacKechnie-Jarvis on 22 March 2009 with sadness. The President announced that Roland Hewson had resigned as Membership Secretary for personal reasons and that Philip Skingley had been appointed by Council in his place. The President further announced that the programme for the Summer Meeting had been finalised and would be advertised in the numismatic press as well as letters sent to attendees from the past 8 years. Harrington E. Manville was elected to honorary membership of the Society. Three short papers were then read by Dr Kevin Clancy, *The Ricardo Ingot: the discovery of a striking in tin*; James Morton, *The Watt collection of Soho Mint coins and medals*; and Dr Catherine Eagleton, *'Herculean labours' of M. Borrel: the 1908 decimal currency for Zanzibar*.

**26 MAY 2009.** Dr Oliver Volckart was elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. The President presented Dr Mark Blackburn with the John Sanford Saltus Medal for 2008. Stuart Devlin then read a paper entitled *Coins and Creativity*. The meeting was followed by the Spring Reception for members and their guests, sponsored by Messrs Baldwins.

**24 JUNE 2009.** Dr Craig Paterson (USA), and Messrs Mark Anthony Crisp and John Gordon Cross were elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. Professor Forrest Capie then read a paper entitled *Money and Economic Development in the Eighteenth Century*.

**22 SEPTEMBER 2009.** Peter Lloyd-Jones (Evesham Coin Co.) and David McBean were elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. Professor Jim Bolton then read the 2009 Linecar Lecture, entitled *How to survive monetary deflation, credit crunches and a great slump: some lessons from the later Middle Ages*.

**27 OCTOBER 2009.** Mr Philip Timmins was elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. Council noted the death of Trevor Wherrett on 14 September 2009 with sadness. Richard Kelleher and Dr Gareth Williams then read a paper entitled *The Tutbury hoard of 1831*.

**24 NOVEMBER 2009.** Messrs Marian Mihnea Ciprian, Graeme Matthew James Restorick and Dr Gregory Charles Stevens were elected by Council to Ordinary Membership. The following Officers and Council were declared elected for 2010.

President:	R.J. Eaglen
Vice-Presidents:	G.P. Dyer, D.W. Dykes, C.S.S. Lyon, P.D. Mitchell, H.E. Pagan, and Lord Stewartby
Director:	K. Clancy
Treasurer:	P.H. Mernick
Librarian:	J.E. Roberts-Lewis
Secretary:	P.J. Preston-Morley
Membership Secretary:	P. Skingley
Council:	M.R. Allen, N.L. Biggs, B.J. Cook, Emily Freeman, Megan Gooch, P. de Jersey ( <i>Editor</i> ), N.M. McQ. Holmes, A.W. Lyons, W.A. MacKay ( <i>Publicity Officer</i> ), R.G.R. Naismith ( <i>Website Officer</i> ), and Elina M. Screen ( <i>Editor</i> )

Council's proposal that the subscription should remain unchanged at £32 for Ordinary Members and £15 for members under the age of 21 or in full-time education was approved. The President delivered the annual address, the first part being a Review of the Society's activities in 2009, followed by the first of two Presidential Addresses on coin illustration: *The illustration of coins: an historical survey*. On completion and on behalf of the membership, Hugh Pagan thanked the President for his contribution to the Society in the first year of his Presidency, especially his approach to the finances of the Society in relation to the global financial situation. The President invited members and their guests to attend a reception in the common room generously sponsored by Peter Woodhead.

## EXHIBITION

October

By Richard Kelleher and Dr Gareth Williams

A parcel of six coins from the Tutbury hoard kindly lent for the purpose by Messrs Christopher Wren and Darren Bishopp.

Six Edwardian sterling pennies from the Tutbury hoard: Berwick class 3; Bury St Edmunds 11a, 11b; Kingston upon Hull 9b1; Newcastle 9b1, 9b2.

## SUMMER MEETING

The Summer Meeting of the Society, *The Life and Work of Matthew Boulton*, was held jointly with the Royal Numismatic Society at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, on Saturday 11 July 2009. The meeting was opened by the President and closed by Mr Joe Cribb, President of the Royal Numismatic Society. During the morning session, papers were read by Shena Mason, *A new species of gentleman*; George Demidowicz, *The layout and development of the Soho Mint: documentary research and excavations* and Dr Dick Doty, *Russians, revolutionaries, and the Raj: Soho goes global*. In the afternoon, papers were read by Fiona Tait, *Improving the coinage: the records of the Soho Mint, 1791–1850*; Sue Tungate, *The Soho Mint: from copper to customer* and Professor Peter Jones, *Matthew Boulton: Man of the Enlightenment*.

PRESENTATION OF THE JOHN SANFORD SALTUS MEDAL  
FOR 2008 TO MARK BLACKBURN

*In making the presentation, the President said:*

At the last Anniversary Meeting in November 2008 Stewart Lyon spoke eloquently in praise of Mark Blackburn's Presidency of the Society. The occasion was the conclusion of five years in that office during which Mark introduced various changes from which the Society will continue to benefit for many years to come. One change advocated by Mark was to broaden the scope of the Sanford Saltus Medal to recognise scholarly contributions to British numismatics at large as well as to the Society's publications. The first recipient under the new rule was Peter Woodhead, enabling us to recognise his august work on the Schneider collection of gold coins.

When Council prepared its nominations for the present award, only with the greatest reluctance was Mark persuaded by Council to allow his name to be put forward. From three distinguished nominees you have chosen him as a most deserving recipient.

Mark turned to professional numismatics in 1982 when, happily for our world, he forsook a career in the City to join the Fitzwilliam Museum as a Research Associate and as a keen disciple of Philip Grierson. He had already come to academic notice with his papers on the mint of Watchet published in the *Journal* in the mid 1970s.<sup>1</sup> This was an early signal of his subsequent interests stretching from fifth- to twelfth-century coinages. Most recently his five Presidential addresses to the Society on the currency of the Vikings issued in the British Isles constitute a major and lasting contribution to that series.

I have personal reasons for being grateful to Mark. When studying the coins of Bury St Edmunds minted during the reigns of Henry I and Stephen, his papers on those reigns were invaluable. I was constantly struck by the knowledge, precision, succinctness and impeccable judgement radiating from every page he wrote. It is a hallmark of all his work and Mark has made an indelible impression on British numismatics, as President of our Society, Keeper of Coins at the Fitzwilliam Museum and as a scholarly writer. All this activity has recently been characterfully pursued whilst prevailing over health problems and personal sorrow. The demands upon Mark's time are understandably legion, but his award is not, as the film industry might say 'for lifetime achievement'. The numismatic world looks forward to many more enlightened words from his gifted pen.

Mark, on behalf of the British Numismatic Society, I am delighted to present you with the 2008 Sanford Saltus Medal.

*In reply Dr Blackburn said:*

PRESIDENT, Members and friends, I am very honoured to receive this magnificent medal. And thank you, Robin, for your very generous words.

I count myself as extremely fortunate to have been able to form a career out of what has, since the age of fourteen, been an enduring passion for me. And the British Numismatic Society played a very direct role bringing that about. When I was eighteen I joined the Society at the suggestion of a local archaeologist in Kent, very appropriately called James Money, and when I received my first volume of *BNJ* I read Stewart Lyon's 1970 Presidential Address in which he commented on the shortage of research workers in British numismatics: 'much detailed work remains to be done throughout the series', he said. 'Even in the Anglo-Saxon period, where intensive research has been carried out in recent years, we have only begun to scratch the surface of some of the numismatic problems which this research has uncovered' (*BNJ* 39 (1970), p. 209). I sent Stewart a letter saying that I had never done any numismatic research and I knew nothing about Anglo-Saxon coinage, but I was willing to learn and help.

<sup>1</sup> M.A.S. Blackburn, 'The mint of Watchet', *BNJ* 44 (1974), 13–38; *BNJ* 46 (1976), 494–8.

He put me in touch with Michael Dolley, and it all started from there. I am not going to recount the events that led me from being a keen amateur to becoming a Keeper in the Fitzwilliam Museum, or to spell out the enormous debt of gratitude that I owe to Michael and Stewart, and many others including Michael Metcalf, Christopher Blunt and in particular Philip Grierson. I described that in December when our sister society, the RNS, very kindly gave me their medal. But I do want to say what an important role the BNS has played for me and others – whether directly as an institution or as a focus for a group of stimulated individuals. The exceptional thing about the discipline of numismatics – and in particular numismatics in Britain – is the contribution that serious amateurs can make to research.

This Society not only provides a forum for disseminating research through its publications and lecture series, but crucially it provides a means of attracting novices and putting them in touch with more experienced numismatists who can encourage and informally train them to meet the rigorous academic standards that are necessary for research to be worthwhile. As a Society we do not tend to plan this consciously, but it is happening all the time, perhaps as much when we are socialising after meetings, as when we are asking questions of a lecturer. The fact that Members are so friendly counts for a lot.

I am very grateful to have made that passage from being a novice to a Sanford Saltus Medallist, and I thank all those in the Society who have in various ways helped me achieve that. It would be nice to think that getting this medal was a sign that you had done your bit, and that it might now be time to sit back and relax. Alas, precedent suggests that is not the case. Lord Stewartby received the medal 39 years ago and is still as active as ever, and the same applies to Stewart Lyon, Marion Archibald and Michael Metcalf, all of whom have had the medal for more than 25 years. So alas, I still have a long way to go to match them!

This Medal is the premier award in British numismatics, and I regret that under the current rules it is awarded by a competitive vote, for my two co-nominees are both highly distinguished and deserving numismatists. None the less you had to decide and I am truly honoured that you should have awarded it to me. Thank you all very much indeed!