

THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
REPORT ON THE SESSION OCTOBER 2012 – JUNE 2013

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Tom Eden, Sushma Jansari, Kris Lockyear,

Philip Skingley, Philippa Walton

THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
ORDINARY MEETINGS, OCT 2012 – JUNE 2013
(including lecture programme)

16 October 2012 – Presentation of the Medal

LECTURE: Lucia Travaini, 'Coins as Bread. Bread as Coins'

20 November 2012

LECTURE: Dario Calomino, 'Roman Provincial mints at the end of the Severan Age'

18 December 2012

LECTURE: Alex Chengyu Fang, 'The Study of Chinese Coin-Like Charms: Changes and Challenges'

15 January 2013

LECTURE: Susan Tyler-Smith, 'Pseudo-Sasanian coinage: How do you recognise it? Why was it struck?'

19 February 2013

LECTURE: Chris Howgego, 'The Monetization of Temperate Europe'

19 March 2013

LECTURE: John Morcom, 'The Small Change of Greek Sicily'

16 April 2013

LECTURE: Henry Fairbairn, 'The Nature and Limits of the Money Economy, 924–1135'

21 May 2013

LECTURE: Richard Abdy, 'Coins of the Bible'

18 June 2013 – Annual General Meeting, President's Address

LECTURE: Nicholas Mayhew, 'The Quantity Theory of Money (4): GDP'

THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY MEDALLIST 2012



Lucia Travaini, the Royal Numismatic Society Medallist 2012

Presenting the medal for 2012 to Dr Lucia Travaini on 16 October 2012, the Vice-President said:

Lucia,

Having graduated in 1976 from Rome University, you worked for 15 years in the Coin Cabinet of the National Archaeological Museum in Rome, from 1977 to 1992. Here, you catalogued and published medieval coins, both from hoards and from the collection of King Victor Emmanuel III, about whom you also published a biography. At that time your other publications at this time centred on the coinage of medieval Sicily.

In 1991 Philip Grierson invited you to Cambridge to work on the Medieval European Coinage Project. With him, you completed a volume on the coinage of South Italy, Sicily and Sardinia, published in 1998. In that same year you were appointed Associate Professor at Milan University, where you still are, teaching numismatics from Antiquity to the early modern period, covering Italy, the Mediterranean, and Europe. Between 2003 and 2005 you taught medieval numismatics at the University of Rome for the art history curriculum.

Your web site lists a very impressive total of 182 articles covering a wide range of topics and your principal achievement has been to relate medieval numismatics its wider cultural and social background. Before your work, subjects such as the location of mint buildings or the ritual and symbolic aspects of coin use were either not written about at all or they appeared in scattered publications.

You have organised a whole string of international symposia – itself sometimes a rather thankless task- and you insist on the prompt publication of the proceedings – which is a real achievement! You have organised symposia in Cambridge in 1997 on Local Coins and Foreign Coins in Medieval Europe (published two years later), and several more in Milan and Perugia - on the buildings of mints, on imagery and power in numismatic iconography, on symbolic values in medieval coins, on the ritual use of coins and other topics, all of which have been published.

Your main publications also extend beyond the traditional confines of numismatics into wider but hitherto neglected aspects of medieval life and thought. The range of topics you have covered is wide, from the use of coins by medieval merchants, to Siena at the late 14th century. You are currently working on another volume of *Medieval European Coinage* dealing with Central Italy. Italian medieval numismatics has sometimes tended to be the poor relation of ancient numismatics, as well as being introverted and dominated by localism. Lucia, through your exemplary record of your own prolific and wide-ranging publications and through the many conferences you have organised, you have stimulated work by others in related fields to which numismatists should contribute, but all too often do not. Your name will adorn the list of holders of our Society's medal.

Dr Travaini replied:

Dear President, ladies and gentlemen, friends.

It is a very special day, for me and my family: the honour you give me is so great and I feel very small compared to my predecessor medalists ... from Philip Grierson to Mommsen! I would like to remember the first steps which took me here, and some of the people who helped me, and the way I have been working all these years.

In life it is crucial to meet the right people at the right time. I started studying medieval Italian coins in Rome at the Museo Nazionale Romano, with the collection of King Victor Emmanuel III; at the same time I studied Norman Sicilian coins with Paul Balog who taught me how to read the Arabic legends on those coins. In the same period I collaborated with Ermanno A. Arslan and in May 1983 I attended a congress in Milan dedicated to the mint of the city: Philip Grierson was there, and also Michael Metcalf. During a coffee break I was talking to Philip Grierson, but he really wanted to go somewhere else and, as Michael Metcalf passed by, Philip stopped him and said "Michael, may I introduce you to Lucia?" and vanished instantly. Michael asked me what my area of research was and I mentioned the Norman Sicilian coins, and after a brief polite conversation we parted. A few months later Michael wrote to me offering me to study a hoard of Norman Sicilian taris in the Ashmolean Museum with the help of a Colin Kraay travel grant: I accepted immediately. At the end of October I flew to London on my way to Oxford. In London I met Andrew Colvin who later became my husband. From 1983 until now my personal life and my professional life have always been tied together and some of you have followed the events.

I would like also to mention something else which is very important to me, and it is related to the way I have been working.

Many of you may agree if I say that food is one of the most serious things in Italy. My grandparents were not cultivated but they were competent unassuming hard working people running restaurants. My father's father moved to Rome from Piacenza in 1930s and opened a

restaurant in Piazza Barberini; my mother's parents came from near Ancona in the same period doing the same job. My parents followed their steps in the same jobs. They did not study but had a great respect for culture. I grew up in Rome between Villa Borghese and the Trevi Fountain and started early to visit Museums and churches with my father.

I learnt to work hard; when you run a restaurant you need a good staff, you need to be competent, but also you need a good organized kitchen full of the right tools, and you need to buy your food and cook it every day and must be ready by midday: you do not know if you are going to have customers that day, but still you must be ready. This I learnt. When I started working on medieval coins I realized – to use the restaurant metaphor - (1) that there was plenty of food available but it needed cooking; (2) that there were very few tools; (3) that the best cooks were abroad (Philip Grierson was the first one I wrote to for help; Michael Metcalf was the first one to teach me how to produce a histogram).

So I have cooked some books and many articles and today you show me that you enjoyed them. Today you make me feel like my father when the restaurant was full of happy customers.

My gratitude goes to all those who helped me and shared my research with me, but most of all I wish to thank my husband Andrew Colvin for his constant help and my daughters Claudia and Livia.

Dr Travaini then presented her paper on 'Coins as Bread. Bread as Coins'

THE SECRETARIES' REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 18 JUNE 2013

FELLOWSHIP

		2013	(2012)
<i>Ordinary Fellows</i>	UK	355	(352)
	Overseas	368	(371)
<i>Student Fellows</i>	UK	16	(12)
	Overseas	6	(6)
<i>Life Fellows</i>	UK	11	(11)
	Overseas	8	(8)
<i>Honorary Fellows</i>	UK	14	(14)
	Overseas	9	(11)
<i>Institutional Fellows</i>	UK	23	(25)
	Overseas	72	(74)
Total		877	(884)

Deaths: Council regretted to report the deaths of the following fellows:

Honorary Fellows

Prof. P. Berghaus	Germany	(1954)
Prof. B. Malmer	Sweden	(1980)

Ordinary Fellows

Mr L.A. Brown	UK	(1955)
Mr P.E. Edis	UK	(1950)
Mr A.G. de Falco	Italy	(1958)
Mr H. Griffin	UK	(1968)
Dr M. Gutgesell	Germany	(1990)
Mr R.M. Harlick	USA	(1985)
Mr A. Hollis	UK	(1967)
Dr P. Rynearson	USA	(1973)
Mr A.P. Tzamalīs	Greece	(1976)

Elections: 2 new Honorary Fellows and 27 Ordinary Fellows were elected.

New Honorary Fellows

Mr Stan Goron
Mr Keith Sugden

New Ordinary Fellows

Mr G. Bud	UK
Mr P.S. Birch	UK
Mr M.K. Davis	USA

Mr M. Domanski	UK
Mr J. Dorner	USA (elected June 2011)
Mr M.E. Hatt-Cook	UK
Mr P. Jakimaitis	UK
Mr F.W. Mason	UK
Mr L.P. Caravella	USA
Mr E. Crawford	USA
Ms A. Dowler	UK
Mr M. Farren	UK
Mr F.A. Hussain	UK
Mr N. Mathioudakis	UK
Mr A. Miynat	UK
Mr C.F. Nicola	Italy
Mr A. Nishi	UK
Mr D. Nugus	UK
Mr V. Orlyk	Ukraine
Mr P.J. Rich	USA
Mr G. Russo	UK
Mr N. Sharma	UK
Mr M.J. Savage	UK
Mr D.S. Van Horn	USA
Mr I. Wallace	UK
Mr S. Withers	UK
Dr N.L. Wright	UK
Mr P. Zawora	Poland

Resignations of Ordinary Fellows

Mr G.M de la Bedoyere	UK (2003)
Dr J.F.G. Bynon	UK (1972)
Prof.R. Holloway	USA (1984)
Mr D. Hay	USA (2008)
Mr S. Ibbotson	Canada (1993)
Mr A.F. Milavic	USA (1988)
Mr M. Skubisch	Germany (2009)
Mr C.H. Subak	USA (1983)

Resignations of Institutional Fellows

University of Leeds Library	UK
University College London Library	UK
Finnish Numismatic Society	Finland
University of Zaragoza Library	Spain

THE MEDAL OF THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY 2013
It was decided to award the 2013 Medal to Michael Alam.

PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY 2013

The Lhotka Prize: awarded to David Hartill (*Early Japanese Coins*).

The Parkes Weber Prize: awarded to Tom Waldwyn ('The Coinage of the Emperor Magnentius: Shaking Hands with the Enemy').

The Shamma Prize: awarded to Norman 'Doug' Nicol (*Sylloge of Islamic Coins in the Ashmolean*, 2 vols, published in 2012).

The Gilljam Prize: No prize awarded this year.

GRANTS AWARDED FROM ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY FUNDS

The Kreitman Fund: No grants awarded this year.

The Lowick Fund: £400 to Waleed Zaid (*Islamic Coins from a Hindu Temple*)

The Martin Price Fund: £560 to Adrian Popescu (*Odessa Numismatic Museum Collection*).
£966 to Amelia Dowler (*Classical Numismatics Summer School – 2 bursaries, incl. award from the CNG Roman/Byzantine Fund*)

The CNG Roman/Byzantine Fund: to Amelia Dowler (*Classical Numismatics Summer School – bursary, see above*). £300 to David Jacobsen (*House of Caiaphas Archaeological Report*).

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY – SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis, M. Elahe Askari, Elizabeth J. Pendleton, with Richard Hodges, Ali-Akbar Safi, *Sasanian Coins: A Sylloge of the Sasanian Coins in the National Museum of Iran (Muzeh Melli Iran), Tehran, Vol. 2: Khusrau II - Yazdgard III* (RNS SP 49, 2012).

THE PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2012-2013

In the interests of brevity it has been my custom not to rehearse the calendar of our past meetings, or the report of the Trustees, both of which are printed in the *Chronicle* and/or made available on the Society's website. However, I cannot pass over the Treasurer's Report without comment. That he judges the financial position of the Society to be satisfactory is a matter of considerable relief for any out-going President, particularly at a time of general economic difficulty. That our affairs are in good order is very largely the consequence of our Treasurer's diligence. For ten years now John Morcom has managed the Society's financial affairs with enormous care, and great precision. Moreover, since he combines accounting skills with legal expertise and experience of a very high order, Council and your President have had many occasions to thank him for steering us around pitfalls and man-traps. John has very reasonably decided that the time has come for him now to concentrate more fully on Greek numismatics, so he will be stepping down as Treasurer, though we shall still enjoy his wise advice in Council. We are indeed fortunate that Amelia Dowler has agreed to stand as Treasurer in his place.

The debt which the Society owes to its Editors, for the *Chronicle*, and for the excellent stream of Special Publications which they produce is similarly great. Their task is an enormous one, as the bumper 2012 *Chronicle* shows. However, I hope Marcus will not mind if this year I particularly single out Richard Ashton, who has grasped that particularly painful nettle known as 'Open Access' on behalf of the Society. As you may know, the Government is moving towards changes which will impose on us a duty to make our *Chronicle* more readily available on line. The detailed government requirements are not yet entirely clear, but since the widest possible dissemination of our journal is very much in our interests, we are now in the process of making the *Chronicle* available through JSTOR. In doing so, however, we are safeguarding the interests of fellows, and are carefully monitoring any possible impact on our subscription income. Richard has played an absolutely vital role, helping the Society find its way through these various issues; he has handled our negotiations with JSTOR, and additionally taken on the physical business of sending the *Chronicles* to JSTOR for scanning.

The day to day administration of the Society falls on our Secretaries, to whom we owe a great debt. This year Robert Bracey is concluding his term of office, and we thank him warmly. This President at least has relied heavily on our Secretaries, not just for the paper work, but also for guiding me through the procedure of our meetings, and for the organisation of our parties. Subject to the ballot, we anticipate that Sushma Jansari will take Robert's place, while Helen Wang continues, providing continuity. To Robert Thompson our Librarian, and to our Vice President, Roger Bland, I owe further thanks. In addition to their specific roles they both also serve the British Numismatic Society, helping to insure that both Societies are properly in touch, and almost always in step with one another.

The joint RNS/BNS Summer out of town meeting takes place this year in York. The Yorkshire Numismatic Society has made the arrangements for us, and already some 70 participants have signed up, so we are confident of a good day. Finalising this address in September, I can now report that this optimism was thoroughly matched on the day. Our special thanks are due to Tony Abramson, who organised the event with minimal fuss and maximum satisfaction for all.

The matter of turn-out at meetings is particularly important for special meetings of this sort, but it also reminds us that the life of the Society all through the year depends crucially on our membership. There is a hard core of fellows who consistently attend month after month upon whom the Society relies, and we all owe them our thanks.

Finally, I'd like to say a word of thanks to our supporters in the Trade. CNG have continued their support for our Roman and Byzantine Fund, and the help which Spink

provides is evident to us all as we enjoy their grand facilities. Over the years all the major British dealers have shown generosity and kindness to the Society for which we are continually grateful.