

THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
REPORT ON THE SESSION OCTOBER 2013 – JUNE 2014

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–

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Tom Eden, Kris Lockyear, John Morcom,

Susan Tyler-Smith, Philippa Walton, Hugh Williams

THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
ORDINARY MEETINGS, OCT 2013 – JUNE 2014  
(including lecture programme)

*15 October 2013*

LECTURE: Simon Coupland, 'Single Finds, Productive Sites, and the Carolingian Economy, 751-864'

*19 November 2013*

LECTURE: Maria Lloyd, 'The Development of Coinage in North Africa: Past, Present and Future Research'

*17 December 2013 – Presentation of the medal*

LECTURE: Michael Alam, 'From Bactria to Gandhara: Coins and Peoples across the Hindu Kush'

*21 January 2014*

LECTURE: Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis, Elizabeth Pendleton, Alexandra Magub and Edward Hopkins, 'The Sylloge Nummorum Parthicorum at the British Museum'

*18 February 2014*

LECTURE: Philip de Jersey, 'The Jersey Hoard: The Story (so far) of the Largest Hoard of Iron Age Coins in Europe'

*18 March 2014*

LECTURE: David Thorold, 'The Fifth Century Gold Hoard from St Albans'

*15 April 2014*

LECTURE: Paul Bevan, 'Sun Yat-sen, Henry Ford and the Guizhou car dollar of 1928'

*20 May 2014*

LECTURE: John Melville-Jones, 'Mint Workers at Rome in the Reigns of Trajan and Aurelian'

*17 June 2014 – Annual General Meeting, President's Address*

LECTURE: Andrew Burnett, 'Coinage in Rome and its Roman Provinces I: The Beginnings in Italy and Sicily (300-200 BC)'

## THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY MEDALLIST 2013



*Michael Alram, the Royal Numismatic Society Medallist 2013*

Awarding the medal at the Ordinary Meeting of the Society on 17 December 2013, the President said:

The Royal Numismatic Society's Medal was instituted in 1883, and is awarded annually to 'some person highly distinguished for services to Numismatic Science'. The current design for the medal was first presented in 1993, and is made from a design commissioned from Ian Rank-Broadley, the artist responsible, among many other things, for the Queen's portrait on our coins today. It depicts Hercules struggling with the Nemean lion, a metaphor of the recipient's long and arduous – but ultimately successful – struggle and achievement. This year it is a great pleasure to award it to Michael Alram.

Michael Alram was appointed as Curator for Byzantine, Medieval and Oriental Coins at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna in 1986, and in 2008 became the Director of the Coin Cabinet. In that time he has made a significant contribution to

scholarship, both with personal research and through teaching, collaboration, and public engagement. His principal interest is Iran and Central Asia; he has contributed articles on the Hunnic coinages of the fourth to eighth centuries, and is presently leading efforts to catalogue pre-Islamic Iranian coinages through the *Sylloge Nummorum Sasanidarum* (with Rika Gyselen) – for which he was awarded our own Gilljam Prize – , and *Sylloge Nummorum Parthicorum* (with Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis). A complete list of his work on this field is extremely lengthy. He has actively encouraged new engagement with the neglected periods of Central Asia through the Coins, Art and Chronology International Conferences, both resulting in major edited volumes (in 1999 and 2011). He has established contacts with numismatists both in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and he has been involved in training Afghan numismatists in Kabul and Vienna. He enjoys a cordial relationship with colleagues at the National Museum of Iran.

His contribution is not limited to Central Asia and Iran. Dr Alram has also published major works on fields: an admirable incursion into Roman coinage (such as *Die Münzprägung des Kaisers Maximinus I. Thrax (235/238)* in 1989) and a number of studies on medieval coinage, especially that of Austria.

He has been actively involved in teaching, mostly in Vienna, and also at the American Numismatic Society, where he was Visiting Scholar in 1997, and the Institute for Advanced Studies in New Delhi. Alongside teaching there has been a strong engagement with the numismatic community, as Vice-President of ICOMON (1998-2004), Vice-Chair and then Chair of the Numismatic Commission of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. He recently became Vice-President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and is Secretary of the International Numismatic Commission, as well as a Senior Fellow of the prestigious ISAW in New York.

He has also shown a strong commitment to what would be called ‘impact’ nowadays in Britain, by organising many exhibitions including “Weihrauch und Seide – Alte Kulturen an der Seidenstrasse” (1996), “7000 Jahre Persische Kunst – Meisterwerke aus dem Iranischen Nationalmuseum Teheran” (2000), “Geld aus China” (2003), and, currently – a brave attempt to rehabilitate the reputation of the Huns – “Das Antlitz des Fremden (2012)” (The Face of a Stranger). Michael: you are no stranger, but among your friends, all of whom are delighted to congratulate on this award of the Society’s medal.

In accepting the medal, Michael Alram said:

Sehr geehrter Herr Präsident,

für die hohe Auszeichnung, die mir heute zuteil geworden ist, darf ich mich sehr herzlich bedanken! In den illustren Kreis der Medallists der Royal Numismatic Society aufgenommen worden zu sein, ist für jeden Numismatiker eine ganz besondere Ehre, und ich habe mich außerordentlich darüber gefreut!

Meine ersten Kontakte mit britischen Kollegen gehen in das Jahr 1980 zurück, als mich mein Lehrer, Robert Göbl, ans British Museum schickte, um einige Kushanmünzen für sein Corpuswerk zu fotografieren. Als kleiner Student erstmals das berühmte Department of Coins and Medals betreten zu dürfen, war für mich natürlich sehr aufregend, doch der überaus freundliche Empfang durch Robert Carson, der mich mit einer Tasse Tee beruhigte, nahm mir rasch die erste Scheu. Weitergereicht wurde ich an einen jungen Kollegen, Joe Cribb, der mich mit den gewünschten Münzen versorgte. Wir kamen dabei rasch ins Gespräch, und Joe zeigte mir einen Fund aus dem nordwestindischen Raum, in dem er Münzen eines bisher unbekanntem indo-parthischen Königs namens Hybouzanes entdeckt hatte. Sprachlos zeigte ich ihm daraufhin meine jüngste Entdeckung: auch ich war nämlich auf den Namen des Hybouzanes gestoßen, jedoch auf ostiransichen Drachmen aus Sistan. Das war meine

erste „große“ numismatische Entdeckung, und Joe hatte mir dazu eine glänzende Bestätigung geliefert.

Dieses Erlebnis stand gleichsam am Beginn meiner wissenschaftlichen Karriere, die ohne die immer enger werdenden Verbindungen zu meinen britischen Kollegen und Freunden wohl anders verlaufen wäre. Sie alle haben somit auch Anteil an dieser Auszeichnung, für die ich noch einmal aufrichtig zu danken habe!

[Dear Mr President

May I express my sincere thanks for the prestigious award, which has been given to me today! I am truly delighted to be included in the illustrious group of Medallists of the Royal Numismatic Society, a very special honour for any numismatist.

My first contacts with British colleagues were back in 1980, when my teacher, Robert Göbl, sent me to the British Museum to photograph some Kushan coins for his corpus. As a young student, I was naturally quite nervous at being allowed to step inside the renowned Department of Coins and Medals, but the friendly reception I was given by Robert Carson, who calmed my nerves with a cup of tea, soon swept away my initial shyness. Then, a young colleague, Joe Cribb, brought me the coins I was interested in. Soon we were talking away, and Joe showed me a find from northwest India, in which he had discovered a previously unknown Indo-Parthian king named Hybouzane. Speechless, I showed him my most recent discovery; I had also come across the name of Hybouzane, but on East Iranian drachmae from Sistan. It was my first “big” numismatic discovery, and Joe had provided me with a brilliant confirmation.

This experience took place at the very beginning of my scientific career, which could well have turned out very differently without the increasingly close links I have enjoyed with my British colleagues and friends. You have all contributed to this award, for which I must thank you again, most sincerely.]

Professor Alram then presented his paper ‘From Bactria to Gandhara: Coins and Peoples across the Hindu Kush’.

# THE SECRETARIES' REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 17 JUNE 2014

## FELLOWSHIP

		<b>2014</b>	<b>(2013)</b>
<i>Ordinary Fellows</i>	UK	343	(355)
	Overseas	343	(368)
<i>Student Fellows</i>	UK	15	(16)
	Overseas	7	(6)
<i>Life Fellows</i>	UK	11	(11)
	Overseas	7	(8)
<i>Honorary Fellows</i>	UK	16	(14)
	Overseas	9	(9)
<i>Institutional Fellows</i>	UK	21	(23)
	Overseas	69	72)
<b>Total</b>		<b>841</b>	<b>(882)</b>

Council regretted to report the deaths of the following Fellows:

### *Ordinary Fellows*

Mr G.E. Trickey	UK	(1989)
Mr J.P. Divo	Switzerland	(1964)

2 new Honorary Fellows, 25 ordinary fellows have been elected (and paid subscriptions):

### *New Honorary Fellows*

Philip Skingley	UK	(1998)
John Morcom	UK	(1959)

### *New Ordinary Fellows*

Mr E. Allen	USA
Mr M.S. Beall	USA
Mr M. Boruvka	Czech Republic
Mr G.E. Barker	UK
Mr E. Crawford	USA
Mr A. de Falco	Italy
Mr F. de Falco	Italy
Ms L. Everaert	Belgium
Mr S.M. Gallcher	Italy
Mr U.E. Gardoni Jauregi	Argentina
Mr C. Haselgrove	UK
Mr P. Kay	UK
Mr A. Keady	Ireland
Mr P.J. Langan	UK
Mr A.P.K. Lau	Hong Kong
Mr J.J. Lee	Hong Kong
Ms A. Magub	UK
Prof. M-C. Marcellesi	France
Mr J. Mathai	India
Mr S.A. Mazzola	Italy
Dr J. McCready	UK

Dr J. Nolle	Germany
Mr E.W. Paine	UK
Mr W.D. Peters	USA
Mr A. Petrov	Norway

*New Institutional Fellows*

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*Resignations of Ordinary Fellows*

Mrs E. Barker	UK
Mr W.R. Binks	UK
Mr P.S. Birch	UK
Mrs Y.C. Courtney	UK
Col. J.P. Dawley	USA
Mr J.C. Malcolm	UK
Mr P.D. Mitchell	UK
Mme A. Nègre	France
Mr G. O'Brien	UK
Mr P.A. Van't Haaf	Netherlands
Mr M.G. Whitty	UK

*Resignations of Institutional Fellows*

Natioanal Ossolineum Institute, Wroclaw Poland

*52 Ordinary Fellows have been removed.*

**THE MEDAL OF THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY 2014**

It was decided award the 2014 Medal to Dr Roger Bland.

**PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY 2014**

*The Lhotka Prize:* awarded jointly to Amelia Dowler and Richard Abdy (*Coins and the Bible*, 2013) and Sam Moorhead (*A history of Roman coinage in Britain: illustrated by finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme*, 2013).

*The Parkes Weber Prize:* awarded jointly to Victoria Collins and Matthew Naiman.

*The Shamma Prize:* awarded jointly to Yahya Jafar (*The Seljuq Period in Baghdad 447-552 AH. A Numismatic and Historical Study*, London, 2011) and Luke Treadwell (*Craftsmen and Coins: Signed Dies in the Iranian World (3rd to 5th Centuries, AH)*, Vienna, 2011).

*The Gilljam Prize:* prize will be awarded in 2014/15.

**GRANTS AWARDED FROM ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY FUNDS**

*The Kreitman Fund:* £2000 to Michael Skinner to study Kushan coins; £4000 to Aleksey Gorin to study Kushan copper coins.

*The Lowick Fund:* £1115 to Purnanand Sanket to study the coins of Tipu Sultan; £1500 to Mahesh Kalra to study Mughal coins; £950 to Stuart D. Sears to study the mint legend of al-Mubarakka under the Umayyads and Abbasids.

*The Martin Price Fund:* £1180 to Ben Alsup for the British Museum Numismatic Summer School; £1000 to Lior Sandberg to study the Greek Imperial coinage of Flavia Neapolis; £1310 to Suzanne Frey-Kupper to examine the collection of Medagliere di Siracusa; £1000 to George Watson to study die engravers in Asia Minor; £1045 to Edward Hopkins to provide technical support and training for the Parthian International Coin Project.

*The CNG Roman & Byzantine Fund:* £750 to Giacomo Pardini to study and publish Roman coins in the Collezione Granducale Medici-Lorena held at the National Archaeological Museum of Florence; £500 to Andrew Woods for the York Numismatic Conference.

#### ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY – SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

There were no Special Publications this year.

## THE PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR

I am glad to be able to report to this year's (2014) AGM that the Society is in a good state, both in terms of its finances and its activities.

The finances are described below by the Treasurer and show that the Society is in a stable financial state. The subscription has remain unchanged for some eight years, and no little credit for that must go to John Morcom, our recently retired Treasurer, who has willingly given his services to us for no less than ten years. The officers of the Society take on their functions voluntarily and in addition to their other activities, and they are not, of course, paid anything at all. To take on the considerable burden of being Treasurer for such a long time is an outstanding gift to the Society. We have few ways of acknowledging such generosity, but we have elected John to an Honorary Fellowship as a small token of our regard.

We have also elected Philip Skingley to an Honorary Fellowship. For many years he also has made a marvellous contribution to the Society, cheerfully taking a leading role in helping us with all aspects of our publications, and also helping us with the seemingly endless arrangements for premises and parties. I am glad to say that he is not yet relinquishing these activities, and we shall all have even more reason to thank him in the future.

Our new Treasurer is Amelia Dowler, and she, together with our Secretaries Helen Wang and Sushma Jansari, run the Society. For personal reasons, Sushma has been less visible physically – but still very active by email, phone, and on Facebook supporting the administrative activities of Helen and Amelia. I am especially grateful to them not just for their efficiency and effectiveness, but also for their continuous cheerfulness. Helen and Sushma are responsible for the academic programme of lectures, which has, as usual, been a rich and varied diet. It would be invidious to single out any individual papers, but we have of course enjoyed hearing our medallist, Prof. Dr. Michael Alram from Vienna; and we inaugurated a new initiative, a student lecture, where after a competition we offered a student the opportunity to deliver a paper to the Society. This year Maria Lloyd spoke about north African coinage. This initiative is part of our wish to increase the engagement of younger scholars with the Society and we will repeat it next year.

Amelia has taken on the management of the Society's finances, and here we should mention one new development, the formation of a Finance and Investment Committee. The Society has considerable financial assets, and we need to continue to look after them properly, and for this reason we have formed this new sub-committee of Council. It will have no role in how we spend our resources, as that is for Council to decide, but it will advise Amelia, and in particular it will take a view on the investments the Society holds. The membership of the new committee will be *ex officio* the Treasurer (Chair) and President, together with 2-4 other members with relevant financial expertise; and I am very grateful to Chris Howgego, Eric McFadden and Tristan Hillgarth for agreeing to their appointment.

There have been some other changes. After many, many years Richard Ashton has stepped down as editor of our Special Publications series. Editing these books requires a lot of work and expertise, and the superb quality of our books, both academically and in terms of production, is the result of his very considerable efforts. As the new editor of the SP series, we are pleased to welcome Kris Lockyear, but I am glad to say that Richard will continue as editor of the *Numismatic Chronicle*, together with Marcus Phillips. Again, this is a task requiring much time and wide expertise: that the *NC* seems every year bigger and better is a tribute to them.

As well as the production of the *NC* in print, we have been investigating joining JStor and making electronic versions of our older SPs available online. At the time of writing (June 2014) *NC* is just about to appear on JStor with – as is usual for JStor – a

rolling wall that prohibits access to the most recent five years. Two of the SPs are already available on our newly developed website, and I am grateful to Sushma and Dario Calomino, our Webmasters, and the ever-helpful Dan Pett for their work on the new website, which should go live very soon.

Robert Thompson has continued to take on the duties of Librarian of the joint RNS/BNS Library housed in the Warburg Institute. We have started to think of ways of improving access to and usage of this great resource, and hope to have more to report next year. At the moment it is open only every Tuesday from 12 to 5, and I am very grateful to the team of volunteers who invigilate it on a rota.

Every year we award a medal and a number of prizes. This year the Society's medal has been awarded to Dr Roger Bland, and the ceremony will take place in December with the citation appearing in next year's Proceedings.

This year's prizes have been awarded as follows:

The Lhotka Prize (for the best publication for the 'elementary student of numismatics) was awarded jointly to Amelia Dowler and Richard Abdy *Coins and the Bible* (2013), and Sam Moorhead *A history of Roman coinage in Britain: illustrated by finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme* (2013). The Parkes Weber Prize (for the best essay by a young author) was awarded jointly to Matt Naiman for his *What was the function of the Roman silver Victoriatus?*, and Victoria Collins for her *Roman coins from Devon*. The Shamma Prize (for the best book on Islamic numismatics) was awarded jointly to Luke Treadwell for his book *Craftsmen and Coins: Signed Dies in the Iranian World (3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Centuries, AH)*, Vienna, 2011, and to Yahya Jafar, for his book *The Seljuk Period in Baghdad 447-552AH. A Numismatic and Historical Study*, Spink, 2011.

We were able to make a number of financial grants, as usual, from the funds we hold which have been very generously donated to the Society to promote research, and we are very grateful to the donors.

Finally, I would like to thank my predecessor, Prof. Nick Mayhew, for stewarding the Society through the last few years. As I am discovering being President involves a commitment of time, but it is very rewarding as both Nick has found, and I am finding.