

THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
REPORT ON THE SESSION OCTOBER 2014 – JUNE 2015

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HON. VICE PRESIDENT

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Rebecca Darley, Tom Eden, Alexandra Magub,

Suzanne Frey-Kupper, Philippa Walton, Hugh Williams

THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
ORDINARY MEETINGS, OCT 2014 – JUNE 2015  
(including lecture programme)

*21 October 2014*

LECTURE: Niv Horesh, 'The Great Money Divergence'

*18 November 2014*

LECTURE: Jerome Mairat, 'Iconography of the Coinage of the Gallic Empire'

*16 December 2014 – Presentation of the Medal*

LECTURE: Roger Bland, 'What Happened to Gold Coinage in the 3rd Century AD?'

*20 January 2015*

LECTURE: Tom Hockenhull, "'Stamped all over the king's head" : defaced pennies and the campaign for women's suffrage'

*17 February 2015*

LECTURE: Keith Rutter, 'Ancient Sicily: Coins and History'

*17 March 2015*

LECTURE: George Watson, 'The System of Coin Production in Southern Asia Minor in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD'

*21 April 2015*

LECTURE: Richard Kelleher, 'The monetisation of England and Wales in the later middle ages: new interpretations from single find data'

*19 May 2015*

LECTURE: Hüseyin Köker, 'Coinage of Komama'

*17 June 2015 – Annual General Meeting, President's Address*

LECTURE: Andrew Burnett, 'Coinage in Rome and the Roman provincial provinces II: The Period of the Republic'

## THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY MEDALLIST 2014



*Roger Bland (Vice-President), the Royal Numismatic Society Medallist 2014, receiving the medal from Andrew Burnett (President)*

### **Awarding the medal at the Ordinary Meeting of the Society on 16 December 2014, the President said:**

Roger Bland is President of the British Numismatic Society and Vice President of the Royal Numismatic Society. He has also done more than his 'share' of supporting the RNS: two stints on the Council, the joint Librarian (1987-90) and Secretary and Special Publications Editor (1990-95).

Roger is currently Keeper of Department of Britain, Europe & Prehistory at the British Museum. He was previously Keeper of Portable Antiquities and Treasure, but his career began as a curator in the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum (1979-2005), but, as we shall see, his coin work began long before that. He is also now an Honorary Lecturer at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London, and a Fellow of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge. He is also an editor of the *Roman Imperial Coinage* series, and has been editor for the series *Coin Hoards from Roman Britain*.

Roger has made a fundamental long-term contribution to the recording system for archaeological and numismatic finds across the country. During a period of secondment at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, he was responsible for drawing up the provisions of Treasure Act 1996 and in general for cultural property policy. During the time he inaugurated the first steps and the rapid expansion of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, which has revolutionized the collection and use of

numismatic and other archaeological data in England and Wales. Neither it nor the Treasure Act had an easy birth, and that they exist today is the result of Roger's legendary powers of persistence and persuasion. He started the collection of data across the country, working with over 30 partners, and against a background of much initial suspicion from both the archaeological and metal detecting lobbies. Between them (the Treasure Act and the PAS system), these new provisions have transformed the situation here, and have provided a model for the rest of the world. Far more hoards are now declared Treasure than ever before and many of them find their way into museums, predominantly outside London, for future posterity. Since its inception PAS has recorded information about over 1 million objects, an incredible achievement and a source of knowledge which would otherwise simply have been lost. But the scheme has not just recovered information about finds; it has also stimulated a enormous number of research projects: over 400 in all, including 13 major AHRC, etc., projects and 86 PhDs. Roger himself has lead many of these (as PI or supervisor). To support it all he has raised money for Collaborative Doctoral Awards and Research Projects (to a total, when I last counted, of £4.8m). In respect of this work for the public good he was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2008, for services to heritage.

In terms of his own numismatic work, Roger has been described as 'one of the finest and most prolific numismatic scholars of his generation.' His online CV (<https://britishmuseum.academia.edu/RogerBland/CurriculumVitae>) lists 36 (!) monographs and 217 articles or other works. He started young (he needed to!), his first article being published when he was only 19. His particular area of expertise is the coinage of Roman Britain and the western provinces, but he has worked intensively on the East as well. He has researched and published widely on coin finds and the Roman coinage of the third century AD and later. His most substantial recent book is a *Corpus of Roman and Early Byzantine Gold Coins found in Britain and Ireland* (2010, with X. Loriot). Other highlights include *The Cunetio Treasure* (with E.M. Besly, 1983) and *The Normanby Hoard* (with A. Burnett, 1988), which both marked major advances in our knowledge of, and a revised classification for, the coinage of the third century AD and of the Gallic Empire in particular.

Roger's main future project is to produce a new edition of the standard *Roman Imperial Coinage* IViii (Gordian III – Uranius Antoninus, AD 238-254). The grounds for this work were laid long ago in his PhD (*The Coinage of Gordian III from the mints of Antioch and Caesarea*); he does eastern Rome as well as western, an unusual combination which can make a crucial contribution to our understanding of the Roman monetary system as a whole. There is a desperate lack of die studies of coinage in the third century AD, which are key to quantification and thus to our understanding of the economic aspects of the third-century 'crisis'. Roger's thesis made available data and analyses of general importance for economic history as well as for Roman numismatics. The focus of the work on the East is important, as the vast majority of recent work on Roman imperial coinage had been on the West.

Roger's achievements are without parallel and there is much more to come. He has always been a good colleague, to many of us, not just those in the British Museum, and is much loved throughout the world. It is no surprise that in 2012 he was awarded the Jeton de Vermeil of the Société Française de Numismatique, and in 2011 the Prix Allier de Hauteroche of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres. Most recently he was appointed a Visiting Professor at the University of Leicester. I can think of no one to whom it would give me greater pleasure to award the RNS silver medal than Roger Bland.

**In accepting the medal, Roger Bland said:**

Thank you very much, Mr President, for those very generous words. I'm really not sure that I recognise myself in what you say.

I would just like to say three things.

The first is, I know, a well-worn τόπος among recipients of this medal, which we see as the premier award in numismatics, and that is the humbling feeling that one has when one looks at the list of past medallists, going back to the first recipient, Charles Roach Smith in 1883 – I will return to him. All the great figures in my own field of Roman coinage are there, including several of my own personal heroes and mentors - Harold Mattingly, curator of Roman coins at the BM for 37 years and founder of the great series *Roman Imperial Coinage*; Robert Carson, from whom I first learned about Roman coins, my supervisor Richard Reece and our current President, founder of the equally monumental *Roman Provincial Coinage*. It really is daunting to feel that one is following in their footsteps.

Secondly, as those of us who work in the area of coin finds know all too well, there has been an extraordinary increase in the number of new discoveries over the last 40 years – both hoards and single finds. We really are living in a golden age of coin find studies. The number of new hoards of Roman coins has increased from about ten a year in the 1960s to 50 a year now, and, when one bears in mind that those hoards can contain over 50,000 coins, to conserve and catalogue them all requires a great and sustained effort and I take my hat off to those colleagues who currently have this responsibility. As for single finds, while pioneering projects to record Iron Age and Early Medieval coins were established in the 1950s and 1980s, there was no systematic attempt to record Roman or later medieval coins because the numbers were just too great: the PAS is now recording over 28,000 single coin finds each year – the great bulk of them Roman and late or post-medieval. And yet, as I know so well, obtaining the resources to do this work rests on a knife edge: at the moment I do not know whether we will have the resources next year, and we struggle to record all the new finds that come to light. Our predecessors would have been amazed at the extraordinary richness of this new resource - I am thinking of Britain, but the pattern holds good across Europe and the world - and they would have been immensely envious of us. This flow of new finds cannot continue indefinitely – there can only be a finite number of coins in the ground – and I do hope that our successors in a 100 years' time do not look back on this period and feel our generation failed in that challenge because they did not put enough resource into it.

Lastly - and I think this is something that those of us who are fortunate enough to be able to earn a living in this field must never forget - I reflect on just how incredibly lucky we are to be able to spend our time doing this. A great strength of numismatics is that it is still a discipline where non-professionals can make important contributions as well as professionals: there are not many other fields of study of which that is true. And I don't think I have rose-tinted spectacles when I say that in my experience numismatists are a genuinely friendly bunch where the spirit of genuine co-operation is strong – again something that could not be said of many other disciplines. I certainly feel hugely grateful for all the help I've received from colleagues over many years. This Society continues to act as an important forum bringing together both groups and few personify that better – and my own concerns with coin finds - than our first medallist Charles Roach Smith. He made his living as a chemist but his passion was to rescue the new archaeological finds that were coming to light through the great construction boom of Victorian times and to record them for posterity. His collection forms an important core of the BM's collections and his publications of new finds are still important: a role model indeed. Thank you very much.

Dr Bland then presented his paper 'What Happened to Gold Coinage in the 3rd Century AD?'

# THE SECRETARIES' REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 16 JUNE 2015

## FELLOWSHIP

		<b>2015</b>	<b>(2014)</b>
<i>Ordinary Fellows</i>	UK	332	(343)
	Overseas	331	(343)
<i>Student Fellows</i>	UK	18	(15)
	Overseas	7	(7)
<i>Life Fellows</i>	UK	11	(11)
	Overseas	7	(7)
<i>Honorary Fellows</i>	UK	18	(17)
	Overseas	8	(9)
<i>Institutional Fellows</i>	UK	14	(21)
	Overseas	64	(69)
<b>Total</b>		<b>810</b>	<b>(841)</b>

Council regretted to report the deaths of the following Fellows:

### *Honorary Fellows*

Dr G. Le Rider	France	(1995)
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### *Ordinary Fellows*

Mr H.E. Manville	USA	(1963)
Dr M.D. O'Hara	UK	(1967)
Mr E.H. Redfern	UK	(1969)
Mr R.J. Seaman	UK	(1973) (d. 2013)
Mr A.R. Shams	Iran	(1967) (d. 2013)
Mr R.C. Swan	UK	(1981) (d. 2012)
Mr R.B. Witschonke	USA	(1970)

1 new Honorary Fellow and 12 ordinary fellows have been elected (and paid subscriptions):

### *New Honorary Fellow*

Joseph Bispham	UK	(1980)
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### *New Ordinary Fellows*

Ms M. Barbato	UK	
Mr R. Champion	UK	
Mrs R. Cox	UK	
Prof. C.S. Harrington	UK	
Mr M. Heaton	UK	
Mr A. Keady	Ireland	
Mr F.V. Murphy	USA	
Mr S. Nigrelli	UK	
Mr D. Ricci	Italy	
Mr S. Schenewerk	USA	
Mr D. Sow	UK	

Mr P. Wyssman                      Switzerland

*New Institutional Fellows*

Baylor University                      USA  
Friedrich Alexander University, Nurnberg Erlangen      Germany  
University Library Bern                      Switzerland

*Resignations of Ordinary Fellows*

Mr J. Dorner                      USA  
Mr G.D. Hart                      Canada  
Mrs H.K. Kemp                      UK  
Prof. L.D.Mitchell                      USA  
Dr J.S. Spring                      UK  
Mr I. Volgano                      UK  
Mr K. Coombes                      UK  
Mr M. Ford                      France

*Resignations of Institutional Fellows*

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*22 Ordinary Fellows have been removed.*

THE MEDAL OF THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY 2015

It was decided award the 2015 Medal to Prof Bernd Kluge.

PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY 2014

*The Lhotka Prize:* awarded jointly to Elizabeth Cottam and Chris Rudd, for *Britain's First Coins* (2013) and Michael Cuddeford for *Coin Finds in Britain: A Collector's Guide* (2013).

*The Parkes Weber Prize:* awarded jointly to Murray Andrews and Supratik Baralay.

*The Gilljam Prize:* awarded to Aleksander Bursche for 'The Battle of Abritus, the Imperial Treasury and Aurei in Barbaricum' (NC 2013).

*The Shamma Prize:* prize will be awarded in 2015/2016.

GRANTS AWARDED FROM ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY FUNDS

*The Kreitman Fund:* £1000 to Kay Rienjang to hold a workshop on Indo-Scythian coinage; £2482 to Pankaj Tandon to study Hun 'archer' coins; £1000 Jonathan Skaff to study the rise and fall of money on the Silk Roads.

*The Lowick Fund:* £1670 to Sanjay Garg to attend the International Numismatic Congress; £1370 to Mohammad Bari to study post-Mauryan punch-marked coins.

*The Martin Price Fund:* £1750 to Héloïse Aumaître to study Ptolemaic coins; £1360 to Benjamin Alsop towards the Numismatic Summer School held at the British Museum; Richard Ashton to hold a colloquium at the University of Fribourg.

*The CNG Roman & Byzantine Fund: £1360 to Robert Bracey, Rebecca Darley and Jonathan Jarrett for XRF testing on Byzantine coins.*

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY – SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

(SP 50) Jacqueline Morineau Humphris and Diana Delbridge, *The Coinage of the Opountian Lokrians* (2014), vii, 254 pp., 61 plates.

(SP 51) Robert Bennett, *Local Elites and Local Coinage: Elite Self-Representation on the Provincial Coinage of Asia 31 BC – AD 275* (2014), xxiv, 178 pp., 31 plates.

## THE PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR

I am glad to be able to report to this year's (2015) 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 remains unchanged after some nine years, and membership is at a healthy level, just over 800.

We are taking two initiatives in relation to our resources. I reported last year that we were forming a Finance and Investment Sub-Committee. The Society has considerable financial assets, and nowadays we need not only to look after them properly, but also be seen to be doing so. The membership of new committee is *ex officio* the Treasurer (Chair) and President, together with other members with relevant financial expertise; and I am very grateful to Chris Howgego, Eric McFadden and, especially, Tristan Hillgarth for their work on the Committee. As a result I can report that you can be confident that the reserves of the Society have been and are well cared for. As ever, we are also very grateful to Tony Merson, for undertaking yet again to be our Independent Financial Examiner, and to Tony and Richard Abdy for acting as the two auditing Fellows.

The second initiative arises from the realisation that the Society has reserves of approximately £400,000. We need to keep some of this as working capital and against a rainy day, but we should try and use some of it to further the objectives of the Society. To that end we have formed a working party, chaired by our Secretary Sushma Jansari, to develop a strategy for the future. While this is Council's responsibility, we want it to be as an open process as possible, so we will report back to meetings as thinking develops. Meanwhile, if any Fellow has any suggestions or ideas, we would be extremely grateful if you could contact Sushma.

It is, as each year, my sad duty to report on losses from our Society. This year we have been notified of the deaths of several well-known RNS Fellows, most of whom had been Fellows for many years.

H.E. (Harry) Manville was elected as long ago as 1963, and will be remembered best for his Encyclopedia: the excellent five volumes on the bibliography of early British numismatics; he also had an interest in British countermarks on dollars of the Industrial Revolution, and I was delighted when the British Museum was able to acquire his collection. The colourful Michael O'Hara, elected 1967, published a number of interesting works on Byzantine coins, especially the find of very early papal coins of the 7<sup>th</sup> century. R.B. (Rick) Witschonke, elected in 1970, will be known to all interested in Republican numismatics and for the way he contributed to the social life of the subject: many of us will miss him, and his dinners! In addition, E.H. Redfern, elected 1969, and R.J. Seaman, elected in 1973, were well known to many of you, and we have also lost one of our few Iranian members, A.R. Shams Eshragh.

I am very grateful to all the members of Council who give their time and expertise so freely to the Society. This year, three members are retiring – Robert Bracey, Suzanne Frey-Kupper and Tom Eden – and I thank them for their help. The officers of the Society take on the main burden of running the Society and they take on their functions voluntarily and in addition to their other activities, and they are not, of course, paid anything at all. I am especially grateful to our Treasurer Amelia Dowler, and to our Secretaries Helen Wang and Sushma Jansari, who - as you all know - run the Society. They shoulder the administrative load, and I am especially grateful to them not just for their efficiency and effectiveness, but also for their seemingly endless patience and continuous cheerfulness.

We have also elected Joe Bispham to an Honorary Fellowship. For many years he also has made a marvellous contribution to numismatics, cheerfully helping us all and organising endless lectures and conferences. I am also grateful to another of our Hon. Fellows, Philip Skingley, not only for making these premises available to us, but for taking a leading role in all aspects of our publications and also for cheerfully continuing with the seemingly endless party arrangements, such as that we shall shortly enjoy.

The academic programme of lectures, which has, as usual, been a rich and varied diet, ranging from the classical period to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It would be invidious to single out any individual papers, but we have of course enjoyed hearing our medallist, our Vice-President Roger Bland; and the recent initiative of having a student lecture was fulfilled with great accomplishment this year by George Watson. Applications for this slot are even stronger for next year - a good sign for the future of our subject.

Richard Ashton, Marcus Phillips and Susan-Tyler Smith continue as editors of the *Numismatic Chronicle*, which seems to get bigger and better every year. Kris Lockyear, with Susan Tyler-Smith, is the editor of SPs, and the year has seen the publication of two monographs:

SP 50: Jacqueline Morineau Humphris and Diana Delbridge, *The Coinage of the Opountian Lokrians* (2014), vii, 254 pp., 61 plates. £60; and

SP 51: Robert Bennett, *Local Elites and Local Coinage: Elite Self-Representation on the Provincial Coinage of Asia 31 BC – AD 275* (2014), xxiv, 178 pp., 31 plates. £50

The *NC* is now also available on JStor, with the usual rolling wall that prohibits access to the most recent five years. Although some problems of access remain. We are continuing to work on making electronic versions of our older SPs available online. Two of the SPs are already available on our website, and I am grateful to Dario Calomino and Dan Pett for their work on the website, and to Sushma Jansari for the RNS' presence on social media..

Robert Thompson has continued to take on the duties of Librarian of the joint RNS/BNS Library housed in the Warburg Institute.

Every year we award a medal and a number of prizes. This year the Society's medal has been awarded to Prof. Dr. Bernd Kluge, the recently retired head of the Berlin coin cabinet. The award ceremony will take place in December and the citation will appear 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 Elizabeth Cottam and Chris Rudd, for *Britain's First Coins* (Aylsham: Chris Rudd, 2013) and to Michael Cuddeford for *Coin Finds in Britain: A Collector's Guide* (Oxford: Shire, 2013).

The Gilljam Prize (awarded every two years for the best contribution to the numismatics of the third century before the reform of Diocletian) has been awarded to Aleksander Bursche for 'The Battle of Abritus, the Imperial Treasury and Aurei in Barbaricum' (NC 2103).

The Parkes Weber Prize (for the best essay by a young author) was awarded jointly to Murray Andrews for 'Slipping in and out of circulation - the lives of English gold coins, 1344-1544 AD', and to Supratik Baralay for 'Coinage, Cultural Identities and Colonialism? The 'Balarama/Vasudeva coinage' of Agathokles'.

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. In addition, we have made provision for a number of special grants to assist some of those attending this year's International Numismatic Conference, to be held in three months in Taormina.

Andrew Burnett  
President