

SPINK

WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

ISSUE 37

AUTUMN 2020

INSIDER

STAMPS | COINS | BANKNOTES | MEDALS | BONDS & SHARES | AUTOGRAPHS | BOOKS
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DR TONY ABRAMSON'S DARK AGE COINAGE - TECHNOLOGIES IN PHILATELY
SOLO TO THE NORTH POLE - SPACE AND ASTRONOMY THROUGH COLLECTABLES
GOLD IMPERISHABLE - THE MAKING OF THE COVID-19 COVER
BEHIND THE SCENES DURING LOCKDOWN



BY APPOINTMENT TO
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
MEDALLISTS & PHILATELISTS
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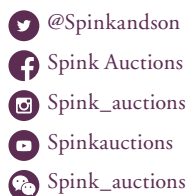
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Summer 2020

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A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends and Clients,

As you will all be too well aware, the few months since our last edition have been a roller coaster of challenge after challenge, but I am pleased to say that Spink has met these head on and emerged bruised, of course, but stronger than ever from the global crisis. I hope the ghastly Covid-19 nightmare has left you and your families relatively untouched, and that your businesses will also bounce back when things return to some kind of normality, even if it is a “new normality”.

The Insider last appeared soon after the UK had locked down, when it was difficult to know how things would pan out – but right from the start our decision to continue with our internet auction programme behind closed doors set us in good stead for the weeks and months to come, and enabled us to stay close to you through digital interaction. We operated behind closed doors with a voluntary skeleton staff and we were all able to work from home and connect remotely. In all we held a staggering 27 auctions globally during the lockdown period, with many more since then. As I mentioned in the last issue, this demonstrates the value of having access to SpinkLive from wherever you are in the world, ensuring that all our customers were able to continue with their beloved hobby throughout the lengthy period of isolation in which many of us found ourselves. If you are not yet on Spinklive, please drop this magazine and download our Spinklive app from Apple or Android stores. Of course, we shall continue to produce our award winning catalogues for single vendor catalogues or any general sale, which will be a reference for years to come. We will spend actually even more time in producing these reference catalogues.

Highlights from the lockdown period included our very first sale behind closed doors – Spink’s online auction of British Coins and Commemorative Medals – which went ahead despite lockdown having just been imposed the night before. A heroic effort from all concerned, to adapt overnight to the new format, and one which



set the tone for the sales to follow. A flurry of April sales included the Professor Yih-Tzong Hsu Collection of World Banknotes on 7th April, our April World Banknotes sale and our charity Bank of England auctions, plus a further British Banknotes sale at the beginning of May, all of which saw fierce bidding on SpinkLive.

Our Stamp department also saw their Philatelic Collectors' Series auction take place under lockdown, running from 14th-15th April and marking the Stamp department's gradual shift from the traditional, somewhat unwieldy sale to a svelte, more manageable and focused auction. British Borneo Stamps and our Orders, Decorations and Medals sale the following week smashed estimates and broke a number of records, followed by the first part of the Gary Diffen Collection of Australian colonies errors on 29th April – as Gary puts it, “the overall results were outstanding”.

Since then there have of course been many more sales, but I am truly indebted to the incredible Spink auction team who kept us going throughout, and to all our specialists who kept the show on the road with such a positive attitude under the most difficult of circumstances.

As always, we hope that this new issue of the Insider will provide plenty of entertainment for you as the summer days draw in, with articles and information on our autumn programme and a variety of special features to interest collectors in all areas.

Of special note is our interview with Tony Abramson, whose collection of Dark Age coinage we will begin selling this autumn – a very exciting prospect for all concerned, and a collection we are honoured to have been entrusted with. To celebrate the first part of the sale we are offering Tony's books at specially discounted prices, so that bidders in the sale have every opportunity to learn more about this fascinating area of coinage – only available while stocks last! Please visit www.spinkbooks.com for further details.

It is part of our mission to try to encourage a new generation of collectors, and this edition includes an engrossing article by the BBC *Sky at Night* writer Katrin Raynor-Evans on exploring astronomy through philately. At the other end of the scale we talked to seasoned collector Judith Grant about what first interested her in

historical documents, and how being a woman in a 'man's world' has affected her career and hobby.

Again continuing our interest in Polar exploration, we are delighted to include the explorer Pen Hadow's fascinating account of his solo North Pole journey, ahead of our November Orders, Decorations and Medals auction, in which highlights from Pen's expeditionary collection will also be offered for sale.

Stamp highlights over the next few months include the Charles Freeland Collection of Three Islands: St Lucia, Nevis & St Vincent on 3rd September, kicking off our autumn season, with Part 2 of the Gary Diffen collection of Australian Colonies Errors on 1st October. Following hot on the heels of the first part sold in April behind closed doors and in the height of lockdown, we look forward to similar buzz and excitement surrounding the next three States: Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia. Later the same day we have the Lionheart Collection, Part XIII, another varied offering in the ever-popular series. This is followed by the 'Doyen' Collection of Worldwide Rarities, a truly amazing assembly of rare stamps of the world, focused on British Empire, but with some rare stamps of GB and Europe too, with November seeing the next instalment of the 'Hermione' collection of France; some highlights will be exhibited at the Salon Philatelique in Paris from 6th November, followed by the auctions in London the week after. To complete our packed schedule we will be offering Part 1 of the 'Dubois' Collection of Jamaica Postal History and Stamps on 19th November.

For coin enthusiasts we not only have the first part of Tony Abramson's collection going under the hammer, but also The Ennismore Collection of Anglo-Saxon and Viking Coins on 15th September at 6pm, which will offer a unique opportunity to acquire the finest examples of coins minted by monarchs featured in the excellent series *Vikings* on Netflix, plus our autumn sale of British Coins and Commemorative Medals. It will be preceded on the same day at 2pm by the Stratos Sale of Spectacular British Coins, featuring the Chalaza, Apollo, Hayleigh, Quinn and Gemini collections.

Banknote offerings will include The Mark T Ray Collection of English Banknotes plus, of

THIS QUARTER'S
NUMBER

27

Number
of Spink
auctions held
globally on
the internet
during the
lockdown

course, our November World Banknotes sale. For further details on these and all of our sales please visit our website, www.spink.com, and see our Forthcoming Sales pages for a selection of highlights.

Looking forward

Spink will continue to be a driving force in taking our favourite hobbies into the new digital age. We have, for example, decided to be the main sponsor of the first virtual Stampex on 1st-3rd October in London, featuring virtual booths from dealers and auctioneers and many exciting online conferences. We are impressed by how fast the hobby has moved online, as demonstrated by the resounding success of the Zoom conferences of the Royal Philatelic Society of London (RPSL) and many other initiatives across collectables areas. Well done to all those who work hard to take our hobbies into the next phase!

Technology is undoubtedly the way forward for our traditional hobbies, not only to survive but to thrive. By migrating some of our auctions to online only, like Christie's and Sotheby's, we have seen an acquisition rate of new customers like never before. On some occasions we acquired well over 100 new bidders, something I had never expected for a long-established company like Spink. Top quality catalogues when warranted and internet auctions go hand in hand to promote the hobby to existing and new players.

To serve you better, we are now in the midst of a massive redevelopment of our London Headquarters, where the two guiding principles are the customer experience and the technological platform and induced workspace. When you do not bid on an online auction, we shall make sure that our physical auctions will be more fun and pleasant than ever, as we really want to turn them into real events to celebrate with you the strength and joy of our hobbies.

A word on the market

As you might remember in my last editorial I was not worried by the impact of Covid-19 on our hobbies. Actually, beyond the human tragedy, I saw it as an accelerator of all pre-existing trends. In four months we have simply been projected four years ahead. As I said, "today is

postponed," and we moved straight into the "day after tomorrow". It might not be as dramatically different as is sometimes proclaimed, as humankind tends to have a short-lived memory of its crises, but a few positive things for our hobby will stay for good. First, a lot of employees around the world will ask to work from home more, and so save 10 to 20 hours a week of commute. They will spend more time with their families and if they have the same collecting bug as us, more time with their collections. They will also enjoy a more seamless access to fellow collectors and items for sale through the internet. Collecting provides also a meaning in life, and it seems that there will be a search going forward for meaningful activities providing some purpose to living.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, as the central banks around the world have responded with gigantic rescue packages and in the process have been printing money and issuing debt at a pace never seen before, any tangible asset which cannot be printed by a central bank is bound to appreciate. The renewed interest in gold is an excellent example of that trend.

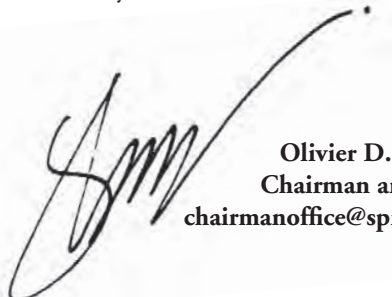
But not all collectables will go up. Now is a great time to continue to sell non-core items and duplicates, ie the more common stuff, which has enjoyed an amazing revival. I am not sure this trend will last for long, unless the way we live is really different going forward. Continue to focus on the best you can afford. Rare, historically important and eye-appealing items remain the best bet for long term appreciation.

I cannot wait to see you again in the flesh at a show or around a good meal when life returns to normal, which I hope will be in the not too distant future.

Whenever this is, you can rest assured Spink will be there for you with the same passion as ever.

Stay safe, be happy and keep collecting!

Yours truly,



Olivier D. Stocker
Chairman and CEO
chairmanoffice@spink.com

“any tangible asset which cannot be printed by a central bank is bound to appreciate. The renewed interest in gold is an excellent example of that trend.”



THE WORLD'S FIRST **VIRTUAL**
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1 October | 10 AM

THE 'LIONHEART' COLLECTION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND BRITISH EMPIRE - PART XIII

1 October | 2 PM

THE 'DOYEN' COLLECTION

3 October | 10 AM

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FORTHCOMING EVENT

THE ENNISMORE COLLECTION OF ANGLO-SAXON AND VIKING COINS

London, 15th September 2020, 6pm

As the year has panned out, one could be easily forgiven for wanting to look forward rather than back. With 2021 heralding the 1,150th Anniversary of the coronation of King Alfred of Wessex, it gives Spink great pleasure to do both by presenting one of the larger offerings of his coinage to appear in recent years, alongside a succession of truly rare and iconic numismatic treasures from the most formative years in the history of the British isles. Migrant influxes, economic turmoil and political fragmentation - this may sound like our own times - but the same is true in AD 871, and just over the horizon? The Vikings are coming...*literally*.

But where did it all begin? What are the 'Dark Ages'? Why was Alfred's achievement sufficient to earn him the nickname 'The Great'? And what is scarier than a Viking?

Whilst a number of these questions continue to puzzle numismatists and historians, the melting pot of cultural and social practices within this island in the two centuries following the collapse of Roman Britain left her inhabitants



AELFRED REX SAX

AELFRED, KING OF THE SAXONS

very much at the forefront of a spiritual battle for its very soul. The power vacuum caused by the withdrawal of the Roman Army in AD 410, presented a rich breeding ground in which pre-existing civic and regional leaders could begin to carve out their own territorial control. Dynasties sprang up across the land, from the *Wuffingas* ('Wolflings') of East Anglia to the *Iclingas* ('Descendants of Icel') of Mercia. The arrival of Christian missionaries from Rome in the last decade of the 6th Century began a pattern of conversion firstly in Kent, then East

*The Alfred jewel: AELFRED
HAD ME MADE*





"Woden" Head Sceat
c. 710-760.
£1,000-2,000



Offa (757-796) Penny,
Canterbury, Eoba.
£10,000-15,000



Anglia, and eventually Northumbria that saw traditional values of Pagan multi-deity worship supplanted by Christian teaching underpinned by baptism of the Royal courts in these fledgling kingdoms. Most converted, Mercia resisted, provoking fierce conflict that plagued the middle of the 7th Century, and leading to history famous warmongers like King Penda, and to archaeology the earthly deposition of the Staffordshire Hoard and the wondrous Sutton Hoo ship burial.

For numismatists it is not until the last decades of that Century that coinage reappears, mainly through continental importation which in turn became permissible specie at a time of prolonged accord between the warring factions. As much as AD 650 records great unrest across the island, AD 680 testifies peace through which fledgling economies could develop and ultimately sow the seeds of Alfred's future prosperity. An example of a coin of this period begins the Ennismore sale. Termed a 'Sceat' or 'Proto-Penny' its design is stark, and a true testament to the age in which it was struck. On the one side, the image of Woden (Odin), Norse god of War, and on the other a Christian 'cross pommée' – together,

as if in perfect harmony. The message behind the blending of these two conflicting religious ideas is not exactly clear. The imagery could reflect a deep-seated concern for the afterlife; to spiritually 'hedge one's bets'. However if there is any significance in the unprecedentedly lengthy reigns of Ealdwulf (663-713) and Aelfwald (713-749) in East Anglia, and Ethelbald (716-757) in Mercia, the symbiosis of the Pagan and the Christian could have been a regally-sanctioned promotion of unity regardless of individual persuasions. However, as has been witnessed throughout history, from Rome to Iron Age Britain, it is not long after the advent of coinage, that its role as currency becomes superseded by its ability to transmit messages at the designer's behest. Soon develops an acute self-awareness of the role of the individual, with designs swiftly evolving to accommodate this.

One can find no greater example of this emerging numismatic trend for 'Majestic self-importance' than in the coinage of King Offa, a ruling hegemon with influence over East Anglia and Kent, as well as his own burgeoning territory of Mercia by the late 8th Century. The Ennismore



Murderer? Cynethryth. £4,000-6,000



Martyr: Æthelberht II. £60,000-80,000

coin shows a supreme artistic skill wholly incongruous with our general perception of 'Dark Age Britain' with its wonderfully classical-stylised rendering of the 'King' evidently loaned from a Roman Imperial prototype.

Furthermore, it testifies the growing role of those around him, for whom the production of the Royal coinage became a route for their own self-promotion. Even within a numismatic record as rich as King Offa's, the Ennismore coin is particularly remarkable with its sheer competency and spectacular artistic flair oozing with the power and control centred at the heart of the Mercian kingdom. In a delightful state of preservation, this striking coin has a pedigree to match – traced back to the 'Rome Hoard' (c. 1830). Evidently this coinage was not just to be flaunted in the Britain, but very much in front of the God's anointed too.

With self-promotion however comes risk, especially if your own power has been guaranteed by the Overlord Offa. Æthelberht II of East Anglia appears to have crossed this line, perhaps in the simple act of recording his Kingly title 'REX' in association with his own name. This unique coin now part of the Ennismore collection, was recovered by a

metal detectorist rather prophetically during a hailstorm in East Pevensey in March 2014, and presently holds the record as the most expensive Anglo-Saxon silver coin ever sold. As is known from the Christian tradition, the hapless King Æthelberht had been due to marry Offa's daughter Ælfthryth. As he embarked upon his

“so ended the life of Æthelberht, like St. John the Baptist, entangled in a woman's snares”

journey to Mercia, a great many omens foretold of the impending disaster, whether they be earth tremors or rapidly forming mists that impeded the young King. Nevertheless he would carry out his fateful journey, only to be beheaded soon after arriving at Offa's court at Sutton Walls. The true motive behind this shocking murder is unclear, it was later suggested that Queen Cynethryth had schemed Æthelberht's demise with one chronicler lamenting: *'so ended the life of Æthelberht, like St. John the Baptist, entangled in a woman's snares'*, but in truth the event is still shrouded in mystery.

In retrospect, Offa may simply have intended to remove a troublesome client King who threatened to re-establish an independent East Anglia, expecting the death to simply be forgotten. However, the chance discovery of the East Anglian king's body in the River Lugg, and a subsequent encounter with a blind beggar (later cured) on its route to burial ensured the King became revered as a local Saint, a patron of Hereford Cathedral, and a source of cult worship across East Anglia. Evidently tormented by his actions, Offa sought to atone for the sin of having killed a martyr. In a shrewd piece of political theatre no doubt driven by his own premonitions of mortality, he sought out the story of Britain's earliest Christian idol. He found St. Alban, a convert executed by the Romans in the late 3rd Century near the town of Verulamium. There he chose to found a new monastery, latterly the Abbey of St Alban's, alma

mater of the only English Pope, Adrian IV, and the medieval historian Matthew Parys whose surviving annals ironically record Offa's shame. After Offa's death, the client kingdoms of East Anglia and Kent would rise up again and assert their independence. Both were suppressed by Offa's successor Coenwulf, but the period of expansion had come to an end; within thirty years Wessex would emerge as the significant presence south of the River Thames.

With Lindisfarne seared in memory, the threat of Viking raids became very real. Alfred however, as the youngest of five Royal brothers in the house of Wessex was probably little troubled, safe in the knowledge he would never be King. At just six years of age, Alfred began to be disabused of this notion, hearing of his father Aethelwulf and elder brother Æthelbald's victory over a heathen army at the Battle of Aclea. A decade later, the third brother Æthelberht would die as

Matthew Parys' depiction of the murder



the Great Heathen Army wintered at Thetford. With the accession of Æthelred I, the North of England fell to the Vikings. **York**, November 866; **Nottingham**, 867; **East Anglia**, 869. In 868, Alfred fought alongside his brother against a raid by Ivar ‘the Boneless’ into neighbouring Mercia. Angered by the affront, the Vikings launched a full-scale assault on Wessex. In January 871, the Vikings defeated Æthelred at the Battle of Reading, however the result was partially reversed at Ashdown, largely due to the personal exploits of Alfred. Two further defeats at Basing and Meretun left Wessex resorting to peace negotiations, and worse still Æthelred was now sick. Shortly after Easter, he died. Alfred, the unlikely of Kings in 849, was now just that at the age of just 22, and he faced seemingly insurmountable odds.

Following the Saxon defeat at Wilton in May 871, a financial settlement ensured the Vikings vacated Wessex for London. The Croydon find (1862) provides a snapshot of the ‘Danegeld’ payments made following such a treaty, as well as the widescale disruption Viking incursions had in this period. Ennismore incorporates an Alfredian issue much in the style of that coinage, and evidently struck at his lowest ebb. In 876, the Vikings returned at Wareham with various pitched battles being partially repelled by Alfred before he is forced into retreat to Æthelney. In May 878, Alfred summoned a meeting at Egbert’s stone - this would be the start of the fightback. Days later Alfred would meet Guthrum at Ethandun [Edington, Wilts] and the fate of England for generations would be settled. A decisive west-Saxon victory crushed Viking aspiration, forced Guthrum to convert to Christianity and adopt the name Aethelstan, and England to be demarcated into Wessex (incorporating Mercia and Kent) and ‘the Danelaw’.

By 880, London existed as a border town within the Mercian zone under the overlordship of Alfred. This settlement was marked by a new coinage; now the most iconic of Alfredian types: the ‘London Monogram’. A fine series of this coinage is represented in the Ennismore cabinet, from one of the earliest variants recovered from



London Monogram Penny, Found at Bucklersbury (1872). £8,000 - £12,000



Danelaw, in the name of Alfred (c. 885-895). £6,000 - £10,000

“With the accession of Æthelred I, the North of England fell to the Vikings. **York**, November 866; **Nottingham**, 867; **East Anglia**, 869”

the mysterious Bucklersbury Find (1872), to the more the stylised portrait types that reflect regional legend spellings of his name. Less well known, however is the inspiration this prolific coinage had in the Danelaw, with remarkable imitations providing the first specie there. It is often said that coinage can be used as a window on the past. No greater lens can be provided than a contemporary imitation, for it provides the numismatist with not only an object, but equally an eyewitness’s interpretation of it too.

Alfred died as ‘King of the Saxons’ in AD 899, by which time the tide had firmly turned in favour of the Wessex cause. His son and daughter, Eadweard the Elder and Æthelflaed would soon take up their father’s mantle. Following the Battle of Holme (AD 902), the challenge of Æthelwold, son of Alfred’s older brother Æthelred I ended, and the pathway clear for their reconquest of England over the next two decades. By AD 918, the sibling pair had reconquered East Anglia, and fortified most of



*'Vik-lops'. Sihtric Cáech (921-927).
£10,000 - £15,000*



*Ánláf Guthfrithsson (939-941),
'Raven' Penny. £18,000 – 22,000*



*Ragnald Guthfrithsson (943-944), 'Triquetra'
Penny. £25,000-35,000*

“A stunning series of Hiberno-Norse issues of Ánláf Sihtricsson and Ragnald Guthfrithsson, all excessively rare; all on offer amongst the finest of their respective types known”

Mercia and Southern England. With Æthelflaed's influence in the north-west, it is assumed that she was responsible for the 'exceptional types' struck in this region in the name of her brother. One such example of this extremely rare coinage is Buga's floral type of which only four examples are known, two of which are in institutional collections and the other unseen to commerce since 1977. The Ennismore collection features the only other known coin pedigreed back to the fabled Montagu cabinet, sold in 1895.

At the same time, the increasingly restricted territories of the Danelaw produce a fascinating series of coinage, likely inspired by the influx of Hiberno-Norse rulers from Dublin. The imposing designs of the *Mjölnir* [hammer] and the sword can be seen on the excessively rare issues of Sihtric Cáech from the 'Five Boroughs of Danish Mercia'. *What could possibly be more terrifying than a warrior Viking?* Perhaps one

with only 'one-eye' as his epithet would suggest. This 10th Century “Vik-lops” however has been recently romanticised by Bernard Cromwell as the wise and cunning son-in-law of the main protagonist Uhtred of Bebbanburg in his novels *The Saxon Stories*. More familiar issues from this period are the 'Raven' types of Ánláf Guthfrithsson struck at Jorvik, and like our first coin directly allude through their iconography to Odin. Our perception of simplistic warmongering Norsemen is noticeably enriched by the numismatic finery of these elaborate and intricate Viking designs. Shortly thereafter follow perhaps the 'sleeping jewels' of the Ennismore cabinet. A stunning series of Hiberno-Norse issues of Ánláf Sihtricsson and Ragnald Guthfrithsson, all excessively rare; all on offer amongst the finest of their respective types known. Rather aptly, as Offa, Cynethryth and Aethelberht II have been reunited in this collection, as to has Ragnald with Eadmund, who in his conquest of the North successfully drove the former out of York in AD 944. Far removed from any potential bias, the author entirely concurs with one contemporary epithet for King Eadmund – 'the Magnificent', which he hastens to add is also our assessment for this exciting evening auction.

The Ennismore Collection of Anglo-Saxon and Viking Coins will be offered for sale in our London Showroom on Tuesday 15th September 2020 at 6pm. For more information, contact gedmund@spink.com and rbishop@spink.com

FORTHCOMING EVENT

NEW YORK AUTUMN ROUNDUP

New York, September-December 2020

The recent Canada & British North America e-Auction at Spink New York showcased the diversity of the country's philatelic history, with items ranging from early stampless covers through to modern errors and varieties. Among the highlights were a newly-recorded example of the rare "Paid at St Margarets Bay" crowned circle, as well as a range of desirable Small Queen and 1898 Map destination covers.

Coming this autumn is an exceptional e-Auction of the Double Head and Admiral stamps of Rhodesia, a detailed examination of these fascinating issues, from plating to colour shades to postmarks, that is sure to please students of this complex and rewarding field.

Later in the season will be the Philatelic Collector's Series sale, a strong and diverse offering ranging from quality single items to significant intact collections. Collectors of United States will enjoy the selection of hundreds of Waterbury, Connecticut fancy cancels, while Great Britain collectors will have the opportunity to acquire lovely Penny Black and Two Pence Blue covers to Rowland Hill.

The Autographs & Documents e-Auction will offer Part I of the Mike Roth Aviation Collection, as well as letters, photographs, manuscripts and more from historical figures including Martin Luther King Jr., Walt Disney, Charlotte Bronte, and Victor Hugo. From explorers and pioneer aviators to authors and political icons, this sale is a must-see for collectors seeking a tangible connection to history.

For details of these and all our sales in New York between September and December please visit www.spink.com/live-auctions. For further information please contact Chris Green, cgreen@spink.com.



Lot 251



Lot 98



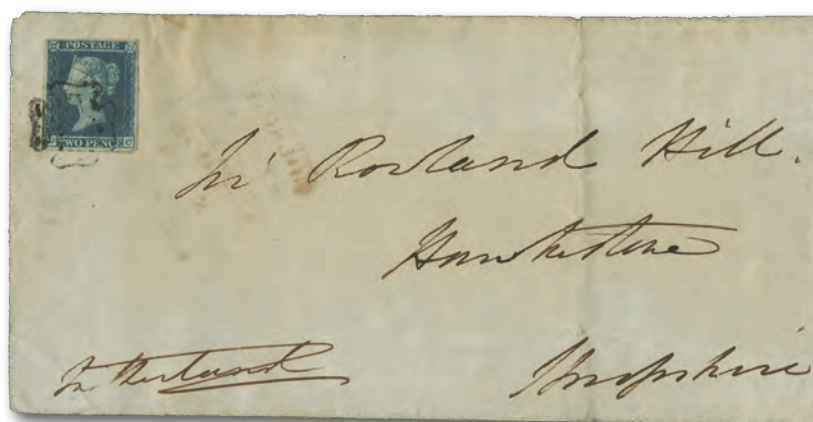
Lot 99



Lot 29



Lot 175



2D Blue



Penny Black Cover

Lot 67



FORTHCOMING EVENT

AUTUMN STAMP SALES

London, September-December, 2020

It is all hands on deck in our London office. Between September and December we boast no less than nine auctions ranging from the highly anticipated first part of the 'Dubois' collection of Jamaica postal history and stamps to a hugely exciting sale of worldwide rarities, the 'Doyen' collection. The team have been busily scouring the globe (albeit from the safety of their homes or office chairs) for fresh material with great success.

First on the agenda will be the Charles Freeland Three Islands sale of St Lucia, Nevis and St Vincent. Charles was a discerning collector who loved his subject; a former President of the British West Indies Study Circle, he was a meticulous researcher and collector and you will see this reflected in the items on sale on 3rd September.

On 1st October we have Part 2 of the Gary Diffen collection of Australian Colonies Errors. Following hot on the heels of the first part, sold in April behind closed doors at the height of lockdown, we look forward to similar buzz and excitement surrounding the next three States: Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia.

Later the same day we have the Lionheart Collection, Part XIII, another varied offering in the ever-popular series. Some highlights include a Bahawalpur 1947 Crescent Moon and Star overprint set, a lovely section of Cape of Good Hope Triangular mint multiples, the Falkland Islands famous 'Glasgow' error and a striking imperforate between variety of the Northern Rhodesia 1½d.



Lot 245 from Part 2 of the Gary Diffen Collection: Error, printed double



Lot 62 from Part 2 of the Gary Diffen Collection; Surcharge double, one inverted. The largest recorded multiple.

THE DOYEN COLLECTION



Saturday 3rd October sees the 'Doyen' Collection of Worldwide Rarities go under the hammer, an incredibly varied sale of some seldom-seen 20th century gems. Highlights are not in short supply and include a very fine example of the 1904 Straits Settlements \$500, Cayman Islands half penny on 5/- with inverted surcharge and a stunning selection of KUT high values including a £75 corner example with plate number.

Collectors of European material can look forward to a 1935-37 Switzerland Air 10c on 15c mint block of four with surcharge inverted, along with a 1938 'PRO AERO' 75c on 50c mint block of four. Two examples, with different Plate numbers, of the 1928 Netherlands 9ct orange-red with value omitted will be offered – an exceptionally striking variety.

The 'Doyen' Collection is extensive and will be followed up with future sales in the coming months.

For collectors of Southern Africa, particularly KUT and Southern Rhodesia, we have an exciting auction to look forward to on 14th October, a specialised sale with world class rarities such as Southern Rhodesia 1963 varieties in striking positional strips and blocks.

November sees the next instalment of the long anticipated 'Hermione' collection of France; after 2018's blockbuster sales of Classics through to 20th century gems, we look forward to offering further exceptional material. Some highlights will be exhibited at the Salon Philatelique in Paris from 6th November, followed by the auctions back in London the week after. At the same time we will be presenting a France and French Colonies e-auction with some lovely 20th century material, all available to view at the show in Paris and then in London.

19th November sees the eagerly anticipated offering of The 'Dubois' Collection of Jamaica Postal History and Stamps Part I. A superb holding of Jamaica material, some of which has not been on the market for thirty years or more. Described by many as the most comprehensive collection of Jamaica ever assembled, it has been a true labour of love for senior specialist David Parsons who has worked tirelessly on this mammoth project. Some highlights are illustrated here and include some important and major rarities such as a corner pair of the 1919-21 1/- with inverted frame and the 1921 Abolition of Slavery 6d – one of only four known in private hands.

As you can see, our stamp team have certainly not been idle, we look forward to sharing these fine philatelic offerings with you in person and online over the coming months.

For further information, to arrange a viewing or to consign to our Winter and Spring series of auctions please contact Iain Murphy, imurphy@spink.com, or Josh Barber, jbarber@spink.com.



1920 1/- corner pair both with frame inverted



1932 6d hand-painted essay



Lot 98 from the Charles Freeland, Three Islands Collection

SPINK

WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

THE GARY DIFFEN COLLECTION OF AUSTRALIAN COLONIES ERRORS

Part 2 - Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia

1 OCTOBER 2020 | LONDON



For more information please contact
Nick Startup | +44 (0)207 563 4073 | nstartup@spink.com

THE 'LIONHEART' COLLECTION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND BRITISH EMPIRE - PART XIII

1 OCTOBER 2020 | LONDON



For more information please contact
Josh Barber | +44 (0)207 563 4080 | jbarber@spink.com

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FORTHCOMING EVENT

THE MARK T RAY COLLECTION OF ENGLISH BANKNOTES

London, 8th October 2020

The banknote department will be starting its autumn auctions with an offering of the Mark T Ray Collection of English Banknotes. Mark has been a collector for over 30 years and when studying the collection it is easy to see Mark's passion for the subject. From the many notes that will be on offer, one of Mark's favourites is the Bank of England, JG Nairne £10, issued on 15th April 1912 – the same day the RMS *Titanic* struck an iceberg. Another favourite of Mark's is a Bank of England, Abraham Newland £2 of 1800. As a bonus included with this lot, there is an original Bank of England envelope dated

1870 confirming that this note was unpaid in the Bank ledger. Only two other examples of this note are believed extant at the time of cataloguing.

Another highlight from the auction is a Treasury Series 'Admiralty Anchor' £1 from 1918. During World War I there was substantial sales of British and American currency in neutral countries from associates of the Central powers. This caused great concern to the Allies, and so in order to keep track of the coming and goings of the notes, a small anchor was incorporated into the reverse design of the £1 notes. To date only a few examples are believed extant, and are extremely difficult to find in good grades.

We hope collectors enjoy this collection, and the best of luck to Mark!

The Mark T Ray Collection of English Banknotes will be offered for sale by Spink London on 8th October 2020. For further information please contact Barnaby Faull, bfaull@spink.com.



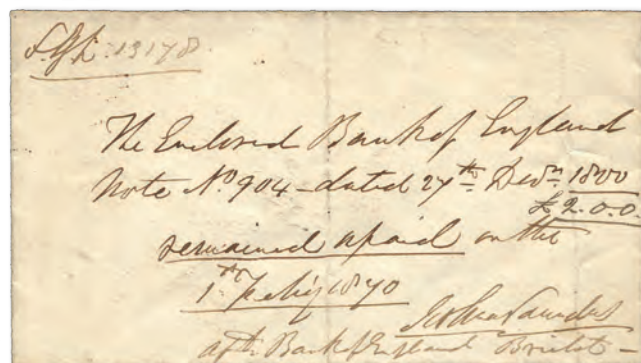
*Bank of England, JG Nairne
£10 issued on the day the RMS
Titanic struck an iceberg.*



Treasury Series, John Bradbury
'Admiralty Anchor' £1



Bank of England, Abraham
Newland, an unpaid £2 issued
on 27th December 1800.



FORTHCOMING EVENT

STAMPS & COVERS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA: THE LETTERS OF COLOUR SERGEANT THOMAS GOLDING WRITTEN FROM THE EASTERN CAPE FRONTIER, CAPE COLONY 1846-1858

London, 14th October 2020

In 1974 Robson Lowe published an illustrated monogram on this correspondence to commemorate his visit to the National Philatelic Exhibition held in Pretoria. The collection was sold privately at the time, and 46 years later it has resurfaced, intact, to be offered in the October Stamps & Covers of Southern Africa auction.

The small archive of 34 letters, with 17 having address panels, is rich in historical content and postal history, showing how soldiers were able to write home at a special concessionary rate – provided the address panel was suitably endorsed by the commanding officer. Sadly, four entires have had their Cape triangular stamps removed.

Golding served with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and later with the Cape Mounted Regiment of Riflemen. The military and political situation on the Eastern Cape frontier was tense. Golding arrived in Cape Town in 1846 and he refers to various attacks as his regiment moved to British Kaffraria.

“The collection was sold privately at the time, and 46 years later it has resurfaced”

On 2nd September 1848 Golding wrote to his father in law “John Bartlett, Carpenter, Next the Bugle Inn, Gosford Street, Coventry” on illustrated printed notepaper depicting Table Bay. The outer wrapper is endorsed by Golding, giving his rank and regiment, and suitably countersigned for the penny soldiers’ rate to England. The headed notepaper is rare, based on an engraving by TW Bowler, one of the most prominent artists of the Cape at the time, whose work today is amongst the most desirable of all Cape Colonial artists.

Golding temporarily resigned from the Army to become a policeman. By this time he had a young son. After opening a school he rejoined the forces with the rank of Trooper Sergeant and was based in Graham’s Town. In his letters home he writes “Dutch Boers are all but in open rebellion on the other side of the Vaal River”, talks of “the slaughter of his troops in the Amatola Mountains”, “chasing the enemy for 8 nights and 9 days over a country covered with bush, rocks





Table Bay, Cape of Good Hope 2nd Sept 1848

Engraved by A. J. Robertson. Designer: R. D. Brown. Cape Town

My D^r Father & Mother

Your kind, welcome & long expected letter came to hand on the 30th August, & Oh! with what pleasure it was received for we have waited anxiously post after post & month after month but no letter came & we began to fear that you had forgotten to write, this leaves us all quite well & the dear boy is getting on well & just begins to talk, he is waddling about the room from morning to night & if he can only get my boots or slippers into a tub of water he is happy, in fact he is up to all sorts of mischief, & his mother is never so happy as when he is up to his eyes in fun & frolic, but I fear

Eding to W. H. H. Cape Good Hope

To

Mr Geo Bartlett

Carpenter &

Next the Bangle Inn

Gosford Street

Coventry

Europe

Col
Regt

9.

1848 Soldier's letter on engraved notepaper of Table Bay, Cape of Good Hope, Paid 1d

“He writes of the 1851 Christmas Day massacre, how a ball went through the top of his cap and other hardships, aside from losing both his son and wife”

and rivers”. He writes of the 1851 Christmas Day massacre, how a ball went through the top of his cap and other hardships, aside from losing both his son and wife. There are numerous references to Sir Harry Smith, Governor of the Cape, the Black tribal leaders and their fate, and the attempts to subjugate the local tribes as peace and stability were sought by the Colonial authorities.

This is a rare opportunity to acquire a correspondence of this nature intact, as so often these items are dispersed over time. Estimate £8-10,000.

Stamps & Covers of Southern Africa will take place on 14th October 2020. For further information please contact Tom Fell, tfell@spink.com. For further information on Thomas Golding's letters please contact Ian Shapiro, ishapiro@spink.com.

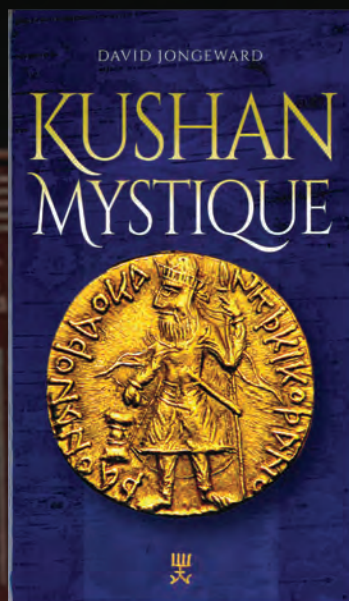
1849 Soldiers Letter with rare usage of an octagonal numeral “46” of Graham's Town on military mail



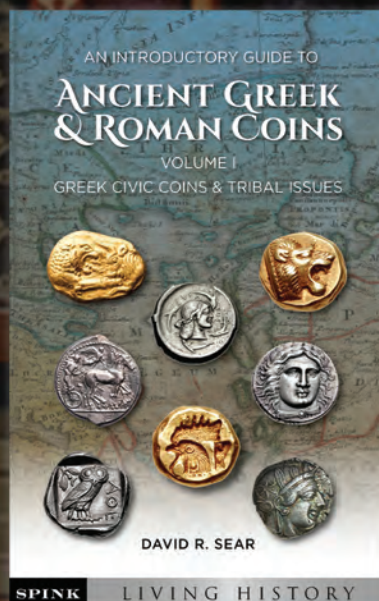
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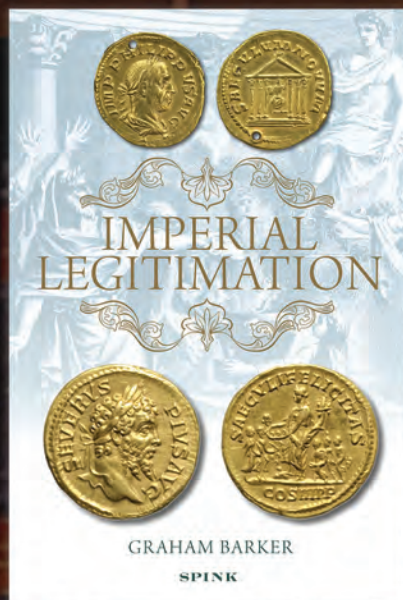
NEW TITLES FROM SPINK BOOKS



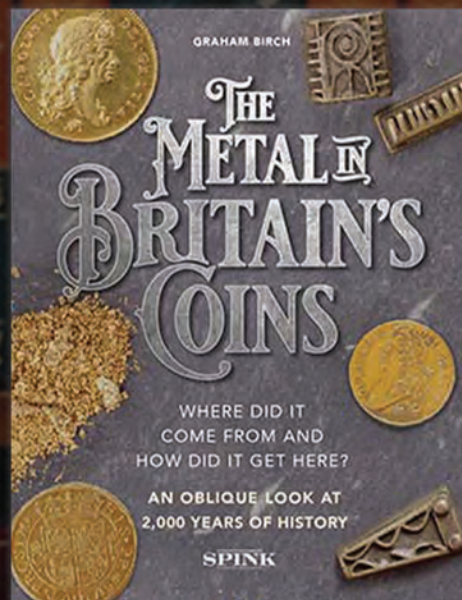
KUSHAN MYSTIQUE
BY DAVID JONGEWARD



**AN INTRODUCTORY GUIDE TO ANCIENT
GREEK AND ROMAN COINS: VOL 1**
BY DAVID R. SEAR



IMPERIAL LEGITIMATION
BY GRAHAM BARKER



THE METAL IN BRITAIN'S COINS
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FORTHCOMING EVENT

WORLD BANKNOTES

London, 4th and 5th November 2020

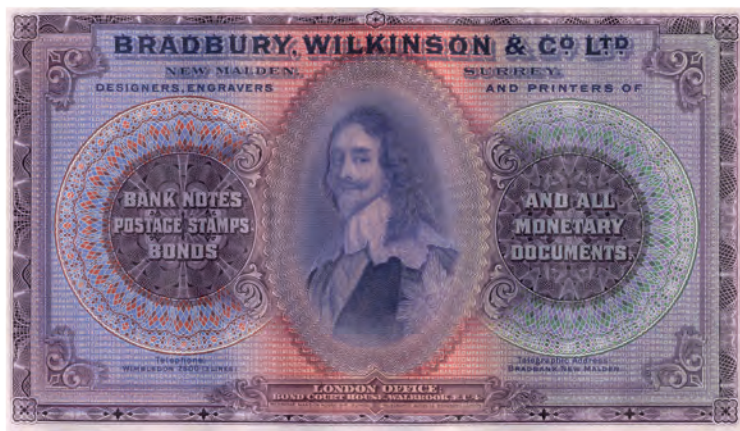
This Autumn we are holding our annual World Banknotes auction with a varied group of interesting paper money.

Continuing with a strong Iraq showing in the Spring auction we have this lovely Government of Iraq, colour trial 1 dinar of 1942 in purple with King Faisal II as a child. Also a vignette of King Faisal II as a youth seen on the 1947 first issue with his signature at lower right. Moving onto the Gulf countries, we have a Qatar & Dubai Currency Board 50 riyals of 1966 - the second highest denomination of this iconic and short-lived series.

One of the most interesting items in this sale has to be this 'Office Francais des Papiers Fiduciaires' book in red leather comprising of test notes from five different printers including Waterlow & Sons and Bradbury Wilkinson. In total there are 65 notes in the album with 13 varieties of weight and paper for each print. This album showcases each printer's unique style of art, a must-have item for any banknote collector!



Iraq, colour trial 1 dinar of 1942 with King Faisal II, who ascended the throne at the age of four after the death of his father King Ghazi I



Bradbury Wilkinson test note design with Charles I



Iraq, vignette of King Faisal II as a youth with his signature



Qatar and Dubai 50 riyals of 1966



1 Gulden 1815



5 Gulden 1815



10 Gulden 1815



1 Gulden ND (1825)



1000 Gulden ND (1825)

The highlight of the sale without a doubt is this group of Netherlands Indies notes from the early 1800s, including an exceptional group of very rare banknotes from the Netherlands East Indies and Suriname, starting with the earliest set of 1, 5, 10 gulden 1815. It is extremely difficult to find this set in such top condition.

Netherlands East Indies, Government State note, unissued 1, 5, 10, gulden 1815 all with masterfully ornate border and embossed seal of a crowned W for (King William I) in circular frame (Pick 1, 2, 3 for type, Plomp PLN I 9.1u, 9.2u, 9.3u for similar, Van Elmpst NI 4002, 4003, 4004) see pictures 1 2 and 3.

Netherlands East Indies Treasury notes, Tahun issue, an unissued 1 gulden, 1825, black and white on watermarked paper, 'Goed voor eenen Gulden' in ornate script top centre, border around and text in Dutch, Arabic and Javanese (Plomp PLN I 11.1u, Van Elmpst NI 4201), extremely rare.

Netherlands East Indies Treasury notes, Tahun issue, an unissued 1000 gulden, 1825, black and white on watermarked paper, 'Goed voor duizend Gulden' in ornate script top centre, border around and text in Dutch, Arabic and Javanese (Plomp PLN I 11.9u, Van Elmpst NI 4209), extremely rare.

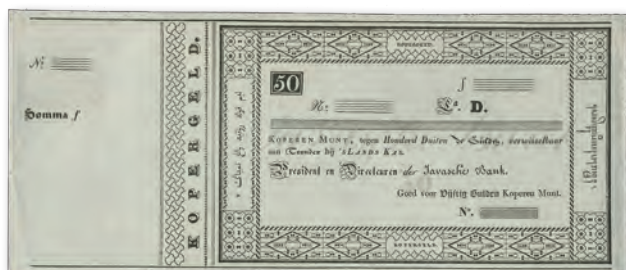
The star lot from this offering, all of the highest rarity and in excellent condition, is a wonderful set of the 1832 Netherlands Indies copper money series (Kopergeld), in an excellent state of preservation, consisting of an unissued set on watermarked paper comprising 1 gulden, green and white, 5, 10, 25 and 50 gulden, all black and white, 100 gulden, blue and white and a 500 and 1000 gulden, both red and white. All with ornate border around, KOPERGELD in vertical panel at left, Javanese script at left border and counterfoil at left. The banknotes are printed by Joh. Enschedé en Zonen (JEZ), in the Netherlands (Pick 17-24 for type, Plomp PLNI 13.1u-13.8u).



1 Gulden ND (1832-1838)



5 Gulden ND (1832-1838)



50 Gulden ND (1832-1838)



10 Gulden ND (1832-1838)



100 Gulden ND (1832-1838)



25 Gulden ND (1832-1838)

500 Gulden ND (1832-1838)



1000 Gulden ND (1832-1838)
Estimate £25,000-30,000



15 Centen 1844



50 Centen 1844

In addition, we have two exceptional Suriname banknotes. These banknotes are not recorded on the Track and Price website and offer a rare opportunity to collectors of Suriname and Netherlands West Indies.

Surinam, West-Indische Bank, an unissued 15 and 50 centen, 1844,

(Pick 31, 33 for type, Plomp PLS5.2u 5.4u),

This is just small taster of the auction, so look out for more highlights across our social media platforms and in the catalogue, which will be available via www.spink.com and the SpinkLive app.

The World Banknotes sale will take place in London on 4th and 5th November 2020. For further information please contact Barnaby Faull, bfaull@spink.com.

THE STORY BEHIND THE MEDALS



Peter Cooper OBE, MID, GSM (CYPRUS)



John Humphreys OBE, ORDER OF ST JOHN, 193945 STAR, AFRICA STAR, FRANCE AND GERMANY STAR, DEFENCE MEDAL, GSM (PALESTINE 45-49), GSM (NORTHERN IRELAND), QEII.



Brian Cumming MBE, MSM, GSM (CYPRUS), GSM (MALAY PENINSULA), GSM (CANAL ZONE), LSGC, PJM



Marjorie Cole GSM (MALAYA), GSM (NI), PJM

Both Brian and Marjorie were awarded the PJM (the Pingat Jasa Malaysia) by the Malaysian Government, for service of 90 days or more in Malaysia between 31st August 1957 and 31st December 1966



Emma Howard

THE CHELSEA PENSIONERS

At Spink we are used to hearing incredible stories of bravery and heroism, often in battle, which lie behind many of the medals sold at auction here, but what of the living men and women who have served their country selflessly during both war and peacetime – the unsung heroes, if you like? I was privileged to visit the Royal Hospital recently to meet four very special Chelsea Pensioners, whose stories are all very different but display equal commitment and dedication during their time of service, often acting as a springboard to fascinating careers and contributions to civilian life after they left the army.

Peter Cooper OBE, MID, GSM (CYPRUS) enlisted in September 1946 as an Army Apprentice aged 14. When asked what led him to take this path so young, his father having served in two World Wars and both his brothers killed on active duty during the Second World War, he said that it gave him a good education and enabled him to train as a vehicle mechanic; it was the “making of him”. Joining the Royal Engineers and applying his trade, he progressed to a Clerk of Works Mechanical, serving as such in Cyprus for a three year tour of duty from 1956-1959 – based on his work during that period he was awarded a Mention in Despatches. Refrigeration training of military and at times civilians completed his 15 years army service.

As an industrial refrigeration engineer with York Borg Warner, and now a Chartered Engineer fully qualified in refrigeration, he joined Sainsbury's in 1972, where he worked for twenty years – he was awarded an OBE in 1993 for services to the food and refrigeration industry. Sainsbury's supported his committee work throughout, including in the reduction of CFC use in refrigeration systems.

The support provided by Sainsbury's helped provide practical solutions to the temperatures

at which food should be stored and displayed with specialists at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Equally he found a replacement for chlorine refrigerant, then commonly used (particularly in the food industry), which had to be replaced due to its effect on the depletion of the ozone layer – but it could not be immediately banned without a safe replacement (consider the operation of hospitals and blood banks, let alone food stores). He modestly comments that “anyone could have done it”, but puts success in life simply down to “work ethic”.

Brian Cumming MBE, MSM, GSM (CYPRUS), GSM (MALAY PENINSULA), GSM (CANAL ZONE), LSGC, PJM left school at 14 but did not apply to join the armed forces until he was 17 – not being prepared to attend boys training, he was told to return at 17½ to be enlisted “as a Man”. It was only when he was given an army uniform that he realised he hadn't gone into the navy, but says this was probably a good thing as he gets seasick!

After his basic training with the Royal Signals in 1950 he was posted to 3 GHQ Signal Regiment in the Canal Zone. He recalls his three-year tour highlights as “kicking King Farouk out of Egypt in 1952”, then moving as an attachment to Jordan with the Arab Legion stationed at Aqaba, where he worked with the RA Training Arab Signals Team. He remembers travelling down from the mountains by mule train to Petra, looking on the ground and finding this coin – not something you would be lucky enough to come across today.

He arrived at a tented camp in Aqaba which was situated next to the Arab Legion camp – 100 yards away across a fence was the Israel camp. He was there in an observatory role, but says that he ended up doing a lot of fishing! “One day, we drifted in to the shores of Saudi Arabia and got fired at! We got in close enough to understand

that we had violated Saudi Arabian waters and were asked to give our names, which we duly did: General Strike, Corporal Punishment and Private Enterprise. The Commander of O Force called us in a month later to ask who these officers were, then duly had the letter from the Saudi Arabians framed and put up in the officer's mess."

One time a plane came down rather too close to the palm trees on one side of the runway in Aquaba, clipping their tops and effectively crash landing. He received a message over the radio to "drag the plane to the side of the airport, cut off its wings and use the fuselage as an office"!

In 1972 he served with 227 Signal Squadron at AFCENT, his last Army posting as a Regular soldier, when he joined the Long Service List. He later became an Estate Warden in Minden, for which he was awarded the MSM, and was awarded the MBE for his work with the MOD housing and welfare service for his work with army families. Having also been a National Trust tour guide, he now puts his skills to good use conducting tours of the Royal Hospital – though more latterly of course his talks have been via Zoom – and can often be seen practicing his fly casting in the grounds of the Hospital!

Marjorie Cole, my only female interviewee, had a very different experience of army life, enlisting in Hull in September 1961 to escape the boredom of working in a bakery. Her father told her "You won't last six weeks!" but 14½ years later she had proved him wrong, only leaving the army due to a bad back. She was one of the first females to be admitted to the RHC in 2009 – now there are another 13.

Marjorie joined the WRAC and was posted to 12 Battalion WRAC working as a storesperson, moving to 4 Company WRAC in Singapore in 1965 where she worked in a supervisory role in the Sergeants' Mess. This was at the end of the emergency with Indonesia, and some of her fondest memories are of this time, in charge of a team of multinational cooks, water-skiing and camping in the jungle! She says this experience taught her the value of things – "Even the Chinese grandmothers were building roads" – and to always keep a good supply of tea, sugar and dried milk to hand for women being brought



The coin found by Brian Cumming at Petra

"He remembers travelling down from the mountains by mule train to Petra, looking on the ground and finding this coin – not something you would be lucky enough to come across today."



Marjorie's Pingat Jasa Malaysia miniature medal (she was wearing the full size one!)

“We got in close enough to understand that we had violated Saudi Arabian waters and were asked to give our names, which we duly did - General Strike, Corporal Punishment and Private Enterprise”

into quarters during the emergency.

The role of women in the army has changed dramatically since her day, with many more front line positions open to soldiers of either sex, but still the same lack of choice over posting. Marjorie was posted to Northern Ireland in 1972, attached to HQ NI as a supervisor within the Officers' Mess, but enjoyed the camaraderie despite, she says, being considered “second best”. She was awarded the GSM for her service in both Malaya and Northern Ireland and has the Pingat Jasa Medal, also for Malaysia. Marjorie quips “Life began at 65 for me!”, when she became a Chelsea Pensioner.

John Humphreys OBE, DL, ORDER OF ST JOHN, 1939/45 STAR, AFRICA STAR, FRANCE AND GERMANY STAR, DEFENCE MEDAL, GSM (PALESTINE 45-49), GSM (NORTHERN IRELAND), QEII CORONATION MEDAL, LSGC, MENTION IN DESPATCHES (2), who at 98 looks as sprightly in his uniform as many men 20 years younger, enlisted at Changi, Singapore in April 1936, also aged 14.

He reached man's service in Socotoo, Abeokuta, Lagos and Sierra Leone, and from West Africa to Egypt and Libya. He recalls taking part in the “Benghazi Handicap” whilst on the Egyptian border during the Second World War – “chasing the enemy backwards and forwards between Tripoli and the border” – but his work there was mainly clearing minefields and demolitions, which he emphasises is “not fun and games”. As a Sergeant, he was tasked with destroying the mountain road that led into Derna to stop the Germans when the withdrawal began, blowing up a road cut out of the side of a cliff with a 200-300 feet drop. This is what earned John his first Mention in Despatches.

During this time he recalls one memorable moment, when his section – exhausted and filthy – stopped on a promontory and jumped into the sea. He says, “We used a few hand grenades, and chucked them into the sea to kill the fish – so we ended up having a wash and a feast!”

From Derna he moved his section back to Tobruk, where this time he was tasked to demolish the harbour installations and twelve water towers, losing all his section bar one, but denying the Germans access to the port. He describes it, simply, as “a bit hairy”. It was from Tobruk that he was captured by the Germans for the first time, escaping after one year and returning to the UK, where he was recommended for a Commission.

On learning that he would have to spend four months in the OCTU, and “desperate to join the action” in France, he volunteered for parachute duties instead, dropping into Arnhem in September 1944. After five days of fierce fighting, with no ammunition and only a few of his Squadron left, he was once again captured by the Germans, but managed to escape on his very first day in captivity!

John's army career reads like a *Boy's Own* adventure story – he was sent to Norway in May 1945 to clear minefields and take explosives out of all the major installations; went as Engineer support to the 3rd Para Brigade to take part in the invasion of Malaya (which was eventually stopped by the A-Bomb); spent time in Palestine doing cordon and search and removing mines from railways; went with 131 Parachute Engineer Regiment to Cyprus, Oman and Aden in the late 1950s; Kenya and Northern Ireland as a Captain in the 1960s; and left in 1969 to join 21 SAS Regiment as the Quartermaster. Three years later, having been promoted to Lt Colonel, he joined 23 Field Engineer Regiment, where he was appointed OBE.

Like me, you may want to know more about John's incredible escape stories during the Second World War, which will be forthcoming in our next issue. In the meantime, to support the Royal Hospital, or find out more about the work it does to support and care for those veterans who have loyally served our nation, please visit the Royal Hospital Chelsea website fundraising page, <https://www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk/support-the-chelsea-pensioners>, or get in touch with the Fundraising Office by emailing appeal@chelsea-pensioners.org.uk or by calling 020 7881 5284.



“He brought a half-empty, 8cm high tobacco tin, which contained my uncle’s entire worldly estate – tarnished brass uniform buttons and buckles - but also six ancient coins. This was the start of my serious interest in coins.”



Emma Howard

DR TONY ABRAMSON'S COLLECTION OF DARK AGE COINAGE: IN CONVERSATION WITH OUR VENDOR

The Tony Abramson Collection of Dark Age Coinage is scheduled for auction from the Autumn of 2020. Part I will include over 300 lots of choice early Anglo-Saxon gold shillings and silver pennies – the strength of the collection is in its broad coverage of this coinage. Many varieties are extremely elusive, and Part II will include many lots of the highest rarity. Future auctions will focus on the coinage of Northumbria, offering collectors of this fascinating and literate series the opportunity to acquire many exceptional types, and Continental gold and silver of this early coinage found in England. In all the collection includes over 1,200 coins, previously housed at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, of many of which are unlikely to be made available to collectors again for a generation.

Ahead of the first part of the sale we caught up with Spink Books author Tony to ask him a few questions about his fabulous collection and what first sparked his interest in collecting in this area:

EH: When did you first become interested in coins?

When I was three or four years old, I had a collection of half a dozen farthings in a shoebox. I recall being upset when my mother spent them! Fair enough, I had taken them from her roll-top desk in the first place. I'm sure all collectors will know that there were 960 farthings to the pound sterling, and, yes, goods were commonly priced in farthings in the early 1950s, after all 19s/11¾d sounded so much less than £1!

About four years later a Canadian soldier visited us. He had been in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp with my father's twin. Listening to him was a formative experience. He brought

a half-empty, 8cm high tobacco tin, which contained my uncle's entire worldly estate – tarnished brass uniform buttons and buckles – but also six ancient coins. This was the start of my serious interest in coins.

Eventually, the coins were identified, with the help of fellow members of the Yorkshire Numismatic Society, as C2nd CE Kushan coins from the Taxila mint. My uncle had been stationed at nearby Peshawar, before the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, for which he had volunteered, were shipped to Burma to face the full fury of the Japanese advance. More recently, I have seen photographs of the ancient Peshawar coin exchange, which still operates in the bazaar and is, very likely, where my uncle bought these coins.

This early interest in archaic oriental coins continued. When I was 12, I recall visiting Manchester, where my mother ran her small business. I took myself, by trolley bus, across town to Shudehill Market and spent five week's pocket money on a Chinese knife coin, supposedly from C11th BCE. Liz Pirie, at City of Leeds Museum, soon put me right – it was a C19th copy of an C18th forgery! Overcoming the disappointment, I still found these coins fascinating, especially when I later discovered their part in the disastrous economic reforms of the usurper Wang Mang.¹

Around this time, we used to holiday in Padstow and visit Port Isaac, where I befriended the local antiques dealer, who was especially generous in selling me old coins very inexpensively. It was a captivating introduction to collecting.

¹ Tye, R., 1993, Wang Mang (South Uist).



Back in the early 1970s, archaic oriental coins were ideal for someone on a tight budget. My first salary as an articled clerk, after graduating, was a princely £800 *per annum*. But in those days, a decent punch-marked Indian silver coin from C5th BCE could be had for as little as £4 in fine condition.

It was only much later, around 1990, that I focused on a much-neglected area of English numismatics, which I prefer to call the Conversion Period, rather than the ‘Dark Ages’ – the sophistication of the iconography belies that epithet.

EH: What attracted you to sceats in particular?

The history and the mystery. Little documentary evidence survives from the period. It is particularly difficult to put the largely uninscribed and remarkably diverse Southumbrian series into any economic, social, political, religious or art-historical context. To make any sense of the early silver penny, one has to draw on all the available evidence, such as the iconography.

The Northumbrian coins are literate and, therefore, less problematic. Right back to varieties of the enigmatic York gold shillings, they are all inscribed with the names of issuers who were historically documented, mainly by Bede.

I acquired my first *styca* in 1975 and first bought a *sceat* in 1989. At that time, there were very few collectors of early pennies, quite probably due to the small module - or flan size - and typically

naïve standard of engraving. This meant that not only were many designs difficult to recognise, but also the series was open to counterfeiting – both contemporary and modern.

Professor Wim de Wit was an enthusiastic collector but acquired coins from very few sources and at the top of the market. During the 1990s, I was preoccupied with launching a technology business, and funds were tight, to say the least. Fortunately, these coins were now being found by metal-detection and there were few buyers for such a little understood coinage.

EH: Why sell?

It was my intention to leave the coins in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, long-term. However, since the death of Mark Blackburn (and Michael Metcalf of the Ashmolean) the context of metal-detectorist finds has changed, and consequently museums’ attitudes and focus have shifted. The latter is due to a number of factors: the major collections have been published through the *Sylloge* series; there is greater availability of digitised images to study online; and the museums have negligible acquisition budgets.

Personally, I intentionally focused on this very narrow niche, as I found this fulfilling especially in advancing our understanding of the coinage. In more recent years, however, my rate of acquisition has dropped, and I feel I have reached a plateau: I have achieved more than I could have expected when I began the collection. Added to this, my perspective has been altered with the pandemic.

The best way to encourage wider interest in the coinage of this period, and bring it into mainstream numismatics, is to disperse rare specimens to the rapidly growing body of active collectors. This will benefit the wider numismatic community. And for me personally it will be a release to move on. The time has come to exchange old money for new!

EH: Won't you miss collecting?

The Conversion Period coins themselves have been in the Fitzwilliam Museum for the last ten years and I have added very few specimens to the collection in the last couple of years, so I've become rather detached from them. I am often sent images of coins by metal-detectorists and asked to identify them, and I find that very satisfying, so I anticipate I will remain involved in numismatics in this way.

Besides, I intend to continue to help organise the biennial symposia in early medieval coinage.

EH: Why do you think sceats have become so popular with collectors over recent years?

I look back to the first *Standard Catalogue* that I bought, in 1960. Even if I had been able to afford the modest £12 most of these types then cost, *sceats* were simply unavailable. It was only with the advent of metal-detecting equipment capable of sensing these tiny coins, that *sceats* started to appear on the market. Even then, the literate Northumbrian pennies aside, the coins were beyond comprehension. Big, bold and beautiful hammered coins were more tactile and had greater eye-appeal for most collectors.

The heavy lifting to bring meaning to the hugely varied types was done for early pennies by Stuart Rigold, Michael Metcalf, Mark Blackburn and Anna Gannon and for *stycas* by Stewart Lyon and Elizabeth Pirie. If I did anything, it was to make existing work more accessible. Michael's *Thrymsas and Sceattas in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford* is certainly a *magnum opus*, but it is somewhat opaque to the non-specialist.

My *Sceats: An Illustrated Guide* was originally my personal *aide memoire* for visually navigating the diverse imagery. I found it so useful, I thought it would help others if I published it. It

was well received, and evolved into *Sceatta List*, as the need to revise the classification became more acute. I hope the large, heavily-illustrated format has been helpful – especially the more robust, second edition published by Spink and shortly to be superseded by a third edition.

The opportunity to expand the early Anglo-Saxon section in Spink's *Coins of England* in 2011 was most welcome and again, hopefully, improved access to this complex series.

With greater availability and understanding, interest has inevitably increased.

EH: Do you have any advice for collectors, many of whom are new to this field?

For collectors developing a serious interest in early pennies, the choices would be to build a representative selection or focus on one group. The former is perhaps more challenging, in that it requires patience – some types do not appear for a considerable time, then, by coincidence, a couple will come onto the market. The latter, more convergent, approach, akin to a die study, gives a lot of scope for contributing to our knowledge of the production and use of early pennies. Both approaches are very satisfying.

EH: Your doctoral thesis has been published. What can sceats tell us about the Dark Age that is unique to its coinage?

As soon as my initial application to study for a PhD had been accepted at York, I contacted Galata Print, who had published Liz Pirie's *Coins of the Kingdom of Northumbria*, despite the overwhelming opposition to her classification.

In private correspondence to her in June 1987, Michael Metcalf had written: "You have invested an enormous amount of skill and devotion and effort into the Yorkshire stycas, and the results ... will be to make the stycas series one of the showpieces of medieval numismatics, with enormous potential for future research. That's why it is a public as well as private tragedy if you perversely throw it all away."²

² I was fortunate to be able to salvage Pirie's archives from Cambridge and Edinburgh. After purging them of copious rewritings of her prolific output, I deposited them, appropriately, at City of Leeds Museum, where she had been curator for many years.

Assembling the illustrated corpus of *stycas* in such detail was a magnificent achievement by the indefatigable Pirie but was rendered inaccessible by her characteristically feisty refusal to compromise on taxonomy.

I was delighted when, after a little badgering from me, Paul and Bente Withers of Galata excavated their archives and sent me the entire proof *gratis*. With the benefit of my brother's IT skills, we were able to digitise the whole corpus as a dataset, so that it could be searched and sorted at will. This provided me with a wealth of detail for assessing the regional distribution of *stycas* in the north. A similar amount of material was assembled on *sceats*, largely from the Fitzwilliam Museum's *Early Medieval Corpus*. The co-occurrence of coins and artefacts, as recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme, gives an illuminating insight to the economic development of Northumbria.

Briefly, my thesis concluded that as the metallic value of the coinage fell, the volume increased, and smaller transactions were settled in coin. Not an earth-shattering finale in itself, but one based on a wealth of empirical evidence.

Other conclusions discussed the balance of power between church and state; the substantial economic differences between the managed lowland estates and the more enterprising, sheep-rearing Wolds; the fiscal take of the church, and shifting settlement patterns in the northern lowlands. It is the coinage that shines a light on this 'Dark Age'.

I also looked at finds from the emporium of *Eoferwic*. The number of finds on the site at Fishergate paled compared to Hamwic (Southampton) and didn't even make the top-20 most prolific sites in the north! I struggled to see it as the bustling emporium of a wealthy Northumbria.

My thesis, with dataset, is available online from BAR Publishing.

EH: What is your most treasured coin?

As I was preparing to submit my thesis, I had a eureka moment. I recall the time and date precisely: 11:45am on 4th April 2016! Discussions with medievalists at York had led me to attempt to interpret the inscription on variety *Cii* of the

York group. The earliest interpretation I was aware of was in Withy and Ryall's *English Silver Coins*, where a specimen of variety *Ci* was illustrated on the supplementary plates (drawn by Charles Hall, 1773).

The standard and style of literacy were comparable to the medalet associated with Bishop Liudhard, who was in the entourage of Queen Bertha of Kent. It dawned on me that after Bishop Paulinus fled York in 633, following King Edwin's death at the hands of Penda of Mercia, the See of York remained vacant until after the transition of the coinage to silver – or at least to pale gold.

Hence, there could only be one candidate as issuer of variety *Cii* of the York shilling. I carefully examined the inscription on my specimen, then unique, and, following the precedent of the Liudhard legend, was able to read Paulinus Ep, despite the literacy falling short of perfection – as indeed it does for the Liudhard piece.

Therefore, undoubtedly, my favourite coin is the 'Paulinus shilling', especially when paired with my gold shilling of Eadbald of Kent, which I speculate (in *BNJ* 89) was initiated by Paulinus's colleague Mellitus.

Mellitus became Bishop of London from 604 to 616. When Eadbald came to the throne of Kent he retained his paganism and exiled Mellitus. Soon after, he did convert and Mellitus returned to become Archbishop of Canterbury.

Both Paulinus and Mellitus would have a sophisticated understanding of the economic and symbolic uses of coins. I particularly favour the York coin, as it was found by a close neighbour. I featured the obverse image on the front covers of both of my Sylloge and my thesis.





Get thee behind me Satan!



A tale of triumph of good over evil, in three acts.

There are many varieties of standard bearer and standing figures which have enormous eye-appeal:

EH: And your favourite sceats?

It is difficult to know where to start! Of course, there are the other rare Northumbrian issuers: Æthelwald Moll, both with Æthelred and his joint issue with Ecgberht, and then Eardwulf.

Among the Southumbrian varieties, there are many rare types which exude charm. Series Q, with its affinity for the Northumbrian 'fantastic beast', is a particular favourite. Also, those coins in Series J, which when paired, tell the story of the triumph of Good over Evil – unless I've arranged them in the wrong sequence!

These contrast with the many *sceats* on which the serpent is a protective element.



Gannon gives a valuable insight into the iconography, which is rich in metaphor.

I regard some of the busts as aesthetically outstanding for early Anglo-Saxon art, given the tiny module available to the engraver:



Some of the few inscribed southern *sceats* are intriguing:



VALDOBERTHUS



DE LUNDONNIA/SCORUM



SAROLADO/FITVR



ICA

...and there are many others to relish:



This specimen of the ‘fledgling’ type, found by Ian Postlethwaite near Binnington in the East Riding, was not the first specimen of this variety. A 1987 find, during the Bermondsey Abbey excavation, had been misunderstood. When I showed it to a friend, Richard Morris, professor of archaeology, it reminded him of a story in Bede’s *Life of Cuthbert*, when Cuthbert shared a fish with a sea eagle. This connection endows this rare type with an additional, evocative dimension.



The Hen/Swan type is another of the great rarities of the coinage and deserves equal iconic status to the Archer and Animal Mask types. The *Nummi Argenti* plate in Withy and Ryall's *English Silver Coins* illustrated a related variety – it is not a concoction of the notorious illustrator of that volume, John White.



There are so many variations within the coinage that, typically, each die is represented by just two or three specimens – die duplication is the exception – unique sceats are common!

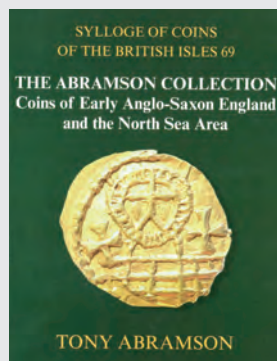
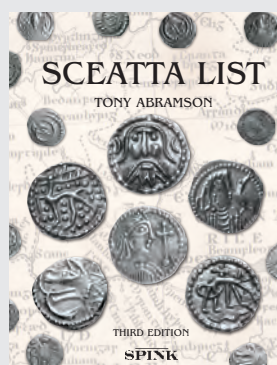


A rarity from Series H, Hamwic.

I hope this provides a little insight to the fascination of this 'Dark' Age coinage.

Spink is delighted to announce that that Tony's prestigious and world-famous collection will form part of our Autumn 2020 and Spring 2021 auction programme. To be kept informed of further announcements about this exclusive cabinet, please contact Gregory Edmund, gedmund@spink.com, and follow further announcements via www.spink.com plus all our social media channels.

Tony Abramson is the author of *Anglo-Saxon Counterfeits: Fakes, Forgeries & Facsimiles*, SCBI 69, *The Abramson Collection: Coins of Early Anglo-Saxon England and the North Sea Area* and *Sceatta List*, all available from Spink Books by visiting www.spinkbooks.com or emailing books@spink.com.



To celebrate the sale of the Dr Tony Abramson Collection of Dark Age Coinage Spink Books will be offering his titles at a special discount - please visit our website for details.



A screen shot taken of participants at Frank Walton's talk on the Dorothy Wilding issues of Great Britain.



An introductory page presented for the talk by Patrick Maselis on Mail from Central Africa before 1880.



Peter Cockburn

THE ROYAL GOES TO STAMPEX – VIRTUALLY!!

On 5th March 2020, Bob Galland gave an excellent talk on *The Evolution of the British Franking System* at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, with a full display of hundreds of sheets and the usual presentation to the assembled audience of 86 members and guests. The Auditors were happily ensconced in the office on the third floor trying no doubt to find a flaw in our accounts to justify their fee.

On 14th March, a few mad hatters like me conducted the AGM of the Malaya Study Group by kind permission of Spink in Southampton Row, though there was some argument about whether the garden door should be open to ventilate the room or closed to avoid the influence of cold which might put us all in bed with the flu!

In advance of the Government, on Monday 16th the Royal had cancelled all meetings until further notice, though it took Downing Street another week to announce the lockdown (a word they hated); in so doing it is said they caused the unnecessary early death of up to 20,000 people. By 26th March we were *clapping for carers*!

Such draconian action upset some members and caused disappointment and fear in others. By the Management Committee meeting on 18th March, London 2020 had been cancelled and so it was essential that the Society thought about methods of securing sufficient interest in philately to avoid potential resignations and financial losses. Remarkably, as Spink reorganised their auctions to be purely online, a new meaning of an old word was discovered: ZOOM!

What a life saver. If ever a Silicon Valley wizard needs worldwide recognition it is surely Eric Yuen, the founder of Zoom.com.

It took a month, which included the Easter

holidays, for a programme of virtual meetings to be dreamt up, discussed and initiated by a small group of dedicated RPSL members and on 23rd April – St George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday – the first act started the drama with a show by Past President Frank Walton on the Dorothy Wilding issues of Great Britain from 1952 – 1967.

The result was dramatic! Hundreds of members logged in but many were unable to join. The user licence we had was only for 100 people and at the time it was thought adequate.

Not a bit of it; as the word spread members popped up from countries all over the world. Members stayed up into the early hours to watch and comments and questions poured in by simply clicking a button. Many more questions were forthcoming than ever at a physical meeting at No 15 or No 41 before it.

With this experience the Royal took to Zoom with a series of presentations which covered a wide range of philatelic and associated activity and which involved up to 166 viewers from 22 countries on one occasion, with well over 300 members from more than 30 countries attending to date.

Philately, it seems, has come into its own as a stimulating pastime, particularly when other forms of social activity are prohibited or severely curtailed.

Many auction houses have reported better than usual results as bidders spend more time searching, and retail sales, after a quiet start in lockdown, are reported now to be better than usual and of more substance than is often the case at stamp fairs or in shops. It is certainly the case in the wider world of fine arts that online sales have been successful, with some bids running into millions, and many smaller items bid on with little or no inspection available at



One of the introductory pages displayed before the author's talk on the printers Blades, East & Blades.

all. Of course in Philately it is usually sufficient to see a good scan of both sides of a thin object which can often be enhanced by magnification, provided the scan is at a suitable resolution, thus giving the online observer with time on their hands a better opportunity even than at a physical viewing.

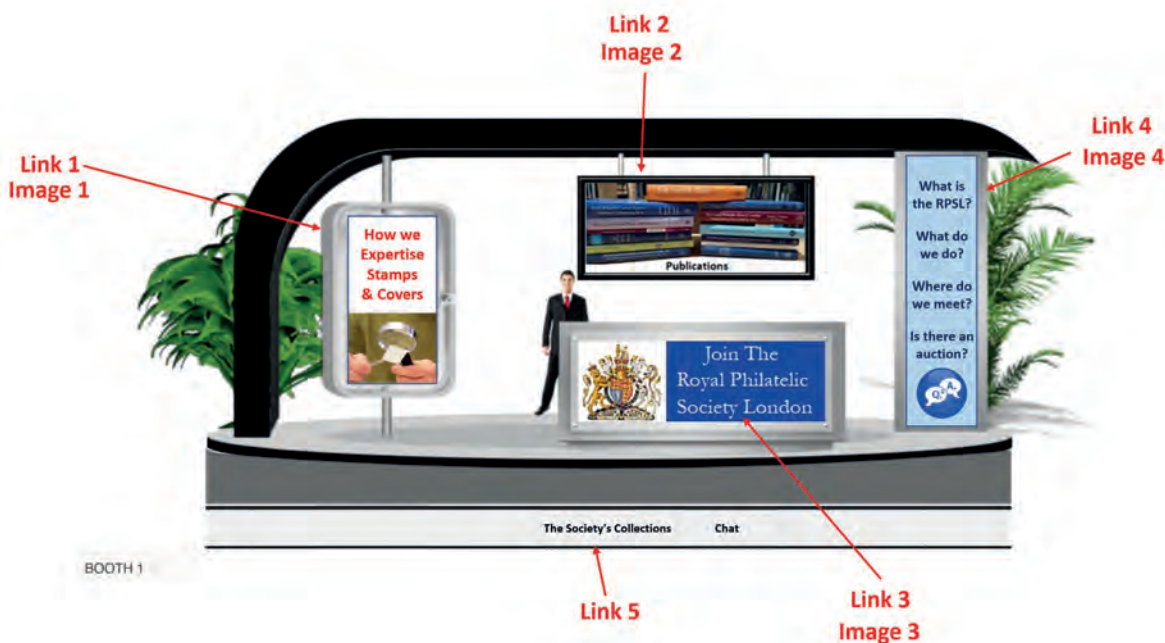
One well known London dealer conducted a single page competition online, with useful prizes, which I had the honour of judging, acting with the Chairman of the ABPS. This was a new experience both for the entrants and for the judges, but the level of interest was impressive with some excellent entries from both experienced philatelists and, perhaps at this time more importantly, some keen, younger first timers. It remains to be seen whether 16 page or more competitive entries can be satisfactorily judged without seeing the originals, but surely it must be tried if travel is to be curtailed for any length of time.

“It would be a tragedy if virtual philately outpaced actual philately, but it is certainly a great adjunct during crisis times”

That is not to say that the physical presence of material, judges and of course the exhibitors and viewers is not vital to the enhancement of the process of collection by bringing interested parties together for the all important social aspects of our great hobby. It would be a tragedy if virtual philately outpaced actual philately, but it is certainly a great adjunct during crisis times.

To their great credit, Estonia managed to perform a full exhibition with FEPA recognition during June.

The Royal Philatelic Society London has accepted an invitation to be a co-partner with the PTS in holding the first ever Virtual Stampex in this country.



The draft virtual booth of the Royal Philatelic Society London in preparation for Virtual Stampex 2020.

The initial information and design information is looking very good, and philatelists throughout the land and overseas are looking forward to 72 hours of non-stop stamp shopping, focused lectures and seminars, opportunities to buy literature and accessories and subsequent home delivery without ending up with longer arms leaving the Business Design Centre than when entering.

This initiative is to be warmly welcomed as for the first time it will create a truly international Stampex. Everyone with the necessary equipment will be able to see the same offerings as though they were present. Spink is a major sponsor of this enlightened effort and all in the philatelic world wish them well.

There are several other excellences which have come to light as a result of the use of Zoom or other video conferencing facilities. The process has facilitated the interaction of professionals and amateurs at the same time from every corner of the globe. On a recent Zoom lecture, we had comments and questions from Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, the USA and Argentina, all within a minute or two of each other. This is not routinely possible except perhaps during major FIP shows which are fewer as the expense and organisation become more and more challenging.

The interaction of Societies has also been of benefit. The online lectures from the Collectors Club in New York, the Indian group of philatelists, the BDPh and APS transmissions are just a few

of the possibilities that are becoming increasingly available. The sharing of information and depiction of collections, both philatelic and of three-dimensional museum pieces, becomes possible, and in due time I am sure that virtual presentations will continue alongside physical events well into the future and probably always.

So Virtual Philately is here to stay, and philatelists without the necessary equipment will miss out. It is vital however that in our enthusiasm to promote much wider coverage of our hobby we do not lose the essential and highly desirable social aspects of the hobby which have been around since the start 150 + years ago. There are many examples of philatelic friendships which have blossomed, sometimes into partnerships and even new potential philatelists joining our worldwide enterprise. We enjoy a social hobby, even if closet collectors are still happy with their isolation. It would be a very sad day which saw local clubs, regional meetings and the great gatherings at exhibitions and international shows diminished by online competition.

What is important however is that in this time of pandemic we have all learned that everyone is a lot closer than they ever thought, even if they are socially distanced locally or in another country. The two aspects, one perhaps only recently discovered, will need to work together to enhance the status of our hobby and bring new recruits to join our growing numbers.

The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the RPSL.



Courtesy: MartinHartley.com
At 90° North, first came thoughts of the vow - fulfilled (19 May 2003).



Pen Hadow

DEFYING THE ODDS: PEN HADOW'S SOLO NORTH POLE EXPEDITION

**An Historic Feat That Will Likely Never Be Repeated
by British Polar Explorer & Conservationist Pen Hadow**

"If I do nothing else with my life I will make it solo, with no re-supplies, to the North Pole." These are the last words my father heard as he died in my arms. The words had just welled up unexpectedly from a place deep inside, but my father and I both knew this is was the sort of thing he had been working towards. I needed him to know he had successfully handed me the baton, and that I was not going to stop until it was done, whatever the cost. If ever there was an unbreakable commitment, a vow even, it seemed to me that this was one.

My father, Nigel Philip Ian Hadow, had been idiosyncratic in the way he had approached parenthood, essentially driven by the idea, I have since thought, of preparing me for the ambitious future that had somehow escaped him, despite his myriad gifts. Let me give you an idea of what I mean. And I should preface what follows by saying he was the kindest, funniest and most supportive father a boy could have hoped for. My life course received a heavy nudge early on in the proceedings when I found myself in the care of the same person who five decades previously had been governess to Captain Robert Falcon Scott's only child, Peter.

One of the letters discovered alongside Scott in the tent in which he and his colleagues had died on their return from the South Geographic Pole was to his wife, Kathleen. In it he urged her to "Get the boy interested in the natural world, there

are some schools that see this as more interesting than competitive sport." He also urged that he be "kept in the fresh air". These dying requests led Kathleen to take on the soft-spoken Welsh teenager, Enid Wigley, to assist in providing a quasi-Spartan regime for Peter over the following five years. By my father's account, it had led to some marked physiological, and most likely psychological, effects.

Some years later my grandmother, Sylvia, hired Enid to look after my father when he was

"I found myself in the care of the same person who five decades previously had been governess to Captain Robert Falcon Scott's only child, Peter"



Courtesy: PenHadow.com

Enid 'Nanny' Wigley, who lived with us till she died.



a youngster, and he became familiar with the stories emanating from Enid's time with the Scott household. Peter went on to become an Olympic sailor, a talented wildfowl artist, an innovator of camouflage paint designs for British warships, the founder of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust and later the world's largest-membership environmental organisation, the WWF (also designing its giant panda logo), and he was the first television presenter of natural history (BBC's *Look*), handing over to David Attenborough. Sir Peter was arguably the first global environmental figure. Sir David is perhaps the second.

So it was that in her seventies, Enid's services were secured by my father to "give me the Scott treatment". Unfortunately for me, we lived on the edge of the Ochil Hills in Glendevon near Geneagles (Perthshire, Scotland). Now the winters up there were a wee bit fresher than those young Peter experienced in southern England. I mention this because part of the regime involved building tolerance to the cold, so throughout the autumns, winters and springs I'd find myself outdoors on our farm with less and less clothing for longer and longer periods. It was only when my mother spotted frost-nip on my face that she was able to bring an end to the cold-proofing process ... three years later.

And so it came to pass, in 2003, that I was to make my third solo attempt, without resupply by aircraft, from Canada, the harder of the two



Courtesy: PenHadow.com
One of the expedition teams en route to the North Pole with my guide service (2000).

classic routes, to the North Geographic Pole. The route from Russia's northernmost point on Komsomolets Island in the Severnaya Zemlya archipelago involves a longer distance, but with the region's sea-ice drifting pole-wards, the actual distance is in effect similar to that from Canada. But as this sea ice is drifting away from the coast, the ice floes experience negligible compressional forces, so hardly any pressure ridges are formed. On a guided expedition I led from the Russian coast, I only had to remove my skis five times over 60 days. From the Canadian coast, taking one's skis off five times an hour, 12 hours a day for 30 days is the norm, so large and frequent are



Courtesy: MartinHartley.com
Final preparations - testing the immersion suit in the Northwest Passage off Resolute Bay.



Courtesy: MartinHartley.com
One of the images secured during final preparations, for media use - no technology existed to transmit images during the solo expedition.



Courtesy: MartinHartley.com
After solo North Pole, I founded and led the US\$7.5 million international research programme, Catlin Arctic Survey (2008-2012).

“I had failed in 1994, and I had failed again in 1998; although I now see these not as *failures*, nor even as *temporary setbacks*”

the pressure ridges (4,500 of them, to be precise, in 2003). Simply put, they make for utterly exhausting work, worryingly slow progress north, and an unremitting test of mental resilience to the nth degree. In addition, by approaching the Pole from the Canadian side, the closer you are to the Pole, the faster the sea ice is flowing against you, thereby acting like an airport travelator *in the wrong direction*.

I had failed in 1994, and I had failed again in 1998; although I now see these not as *failures*, nor even as *temporary setbacks*, but the essential experiences I needed to find the keys to unlock the doors to eventual success. Over the last 100 years, most expeditions attempting to reach the North Geographic Pole, from both the Russian and Canadian coasts, have failed by the criteria they originally set themselves. For example, if three people set off with the intention of three resupplies by air (thereby making their sledge loads smaller and lighter to haul), two might reach the Pole and claim success, though the third person may have been airlifted out, thanks to an additional fourth aircraft intervention, with freezing cold injuries (FCIs) – or they simply wanted ‘out’ from all the privations, suffering, and an increasing conviction that the Pole was unattainable.

On my first attempt in 1994, my approach had been to take two of everything I felt essential. The trouble was, everything was mission-critical. So my all-up sledge weight had been 175 kilograms - almost impossible to haul across even level ice floes, but not quite. Any pressure ridges involved shuttling smaller loads up and over before the sledge could be hauled up the 45° slopes of chaotically jumbled ice blocks. The following year I set up the first guiding service

Courtesy: MartinHartley.com

Immediately after landing on terra firma, after 75 days on the Arctic Ocean (2003).



Courtesy: MartinHartley.com

Final preparations - Sledge-hauling on the ice floes of the Northwest Passage (2003).



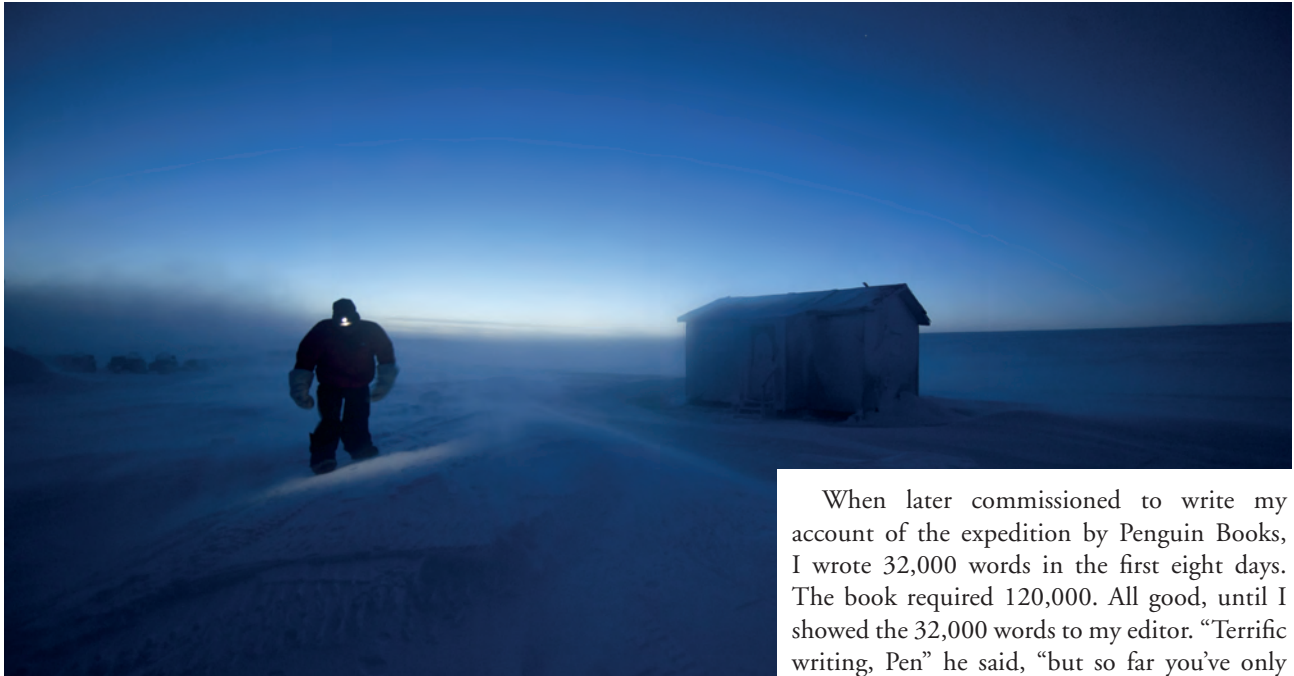
to the North Pole from Canada in a deliberate strategy to build up the body of experience I realised I needed. After all, the Arctic Ocean and its sea-ice surface posed a number of entirely unique technical challenges to the sea-ice traveller. So while a supremely positive and resilient mindset would be essential, technical skills and operational experience were going to be equally essential. As Malcolm Gladwell proposed in *Outliers*, for those in specialist areas who train in the order of 10,000 hours, world-class performance tends to follow. Since first conceiving of my solo without resupply by the harder route in 1989, it happened that by 2003, I had spent close to 10,000 hours travelling on the Arctic Ocean. I had secured that critical body of experience that simply cannot be obtained from books, films, lectures, and personal briefings from generous-minded fellow explorers alone.

To reach my start point on the edge of the Arctic Ocean from London involved four scheduled flights followed by two charter flights, each heading ever further north. The final

“I had secured that critical body of experience that simply cannot be obtained from books, films, lectures, and personal briefings from generous-minded fellow explorers alone”

of these was to the uninhabited Ward Hunt Island (83° 05' North), which lies off northern Ellesmere Island, it's Canada's northernmost coastline. To reach the North Geographic Pole from here I'd be setting off from one of the world's northernmost 'beaches' and making my way across 770km of constantly-drifting, partially-frozen ocean surface to 90° North – the point marking the axis of our planet's rotation in the northern hemisphere. I spent two weeks undertaking my final preparations in the remote Nunavut settlement of Resolute Bay (74° 30' North) on the northern shore of the Northwest Passage.

Most of my focus was on reducing the weight of my sledge to its eventual 117 kilograms, plus a 15kg backpack. Long ago I'd discovered



Courtesy: MartinHartley.com

To save weight, I left my only outer jacket in the hut on Ward Hunt Island (2003).

that cutting one's toothbrush in half is a false economy. If you've ever tried cleaning your teeth with half a brush, you'll know what I mean - you end up not cleaning your teeth. Over 75 days that can cause serious dental issues which are then compounded by the extreme oral environment, such as the thermal cycling my teeth had to endure, with one moment -40°C air being drawn over them, and the next, a cup of $+80^{\circ}\text{C}$ tea washing over them, followed immediately by another inhalation of -40°C air. Add to this the differential rates of contraction in response to temperature for teeth and for fillings, and throw in some iron-hard nuts or chocolate bits, and you can see the stresses on just this part of your anatomy. Lose a filling, or crack a tooth, and 75 days can feel just a little longer - I had both, despite having all my fillings replaced to mitigate against this risk. And these were just two of the 164 risks I had listed, each with an assessment of the likelihood and scale of impact, the mitigations I could take to minimize the risk, and the actions necessary if they occurred.

When later commissioned to write my account of the expedition by Penguin Books, I wrote 32,000 words in the first eight days. The book required 120,000. All good, until I showed the 32,000 words to my editor. "Terrific writing, Pen" he said, "but so far you've only shared with us your three days in the hut on Ward Hunt Island before you set off!" All I can remember now of those tense three days alone in the world's most remote abode, aside from the asthmatic breathing sound the tiny wooden hut made as the wind-gusts struck, and the dread of a polar bear locking onto the smell of my cooking and ripping off the scantily secured door, was the sheer enormity of the challenge I had set myself for the next 75 days: the monastic-like privations ahead; the resilience necessary to get through all the dark and desperate moments; the relentless obsessive drive needed to wake up on schedule, prepare for the day ahead in extreme cold, and then commit to taking down my single-layer shelter and setting off each day; and somehow to keep going, just keep going ...

It is appropriate to acknowledge at this point that as with any pioneering feat at the bleeding edge of one's specialism, such a solo attempt was built upon the talents and commitment of my predecessors. Britain's Sir Ranulph Fiennes introduced the concept of unsupported expeditions to the North Pole (ie no resupplies, no personnel insertions/extractions, and the use of only human-power - so no snowmobiles, dogs

Courtesy: Stephen King

Image taken by one of the Twin Otter pilots, nine days after I'd reached the Pole.



Courtesy: PenHadow.com

The possibility of a polar bear attack at any moment was real - and added a sense of Russian roulette.



etc), though four of his five attempts were with a sledging partner. Japan's Naomi Uemura had been the first to 'solo' the North Pole in 1978, employing seven resupplies and a dog-team from Ward Hunt. France's Dr Jean-Louis Etienne also made it 'solo' with only five resupplies and no dogs in 1986 from Ward Hunt. Meanwhile, Norway's Borge Ousland had made it *truly* solo (i.e. without resupply by aircraft) from Severnaya Zemlya on Russia's northernmost coast in 1994.

Between 1990 and 2002, there had been approximately 15 solo unsupported attempts from Canada (including two by myself) by well-known adventurers, professional polar guides and special forces personnel, most pulling out in the earlier stages of their attempt. But by 2001 Japan's Hyoichi Kono had made it 'solo' with just one resupply to the Pole. The clock was ticking if I was to be the one to push through this final performance barrier, though many in the polar community had come to see the challenge as likely impossible. World-leading high-altitude mountaineer Reinhold Messner, who had been the first person to solo Mt Everest and later made an unsupported attempt to the North Pole from Russia (partnered with his brother), quickly withdrew when he realised that sea-ice travel presented challenges quite unlike those of mountains and declared the first solo unsupported North Pole journey comparable to making the first solo ascent without oxygen of Mt Everest by the harder of the classic routes.

On 17th March 2003, after waiting three days for the winds to drop and the -40°C air temperature to freeze the open water areas, I struck out northwards towards ignominy, success or death. There is no way I can convey what it's really like. It's a complex interaction of emotions, situations and decisions that produces an intensely internal personal experience. So while the outside observer is left with the basic constituents of ocean surface conditions, the weather conditions, the daily progress north, one-line (or even one word) daily operational summaries and the (very real) possibility of disaster at any moment, it's an entirely different thing out on the ice.

For the first few days I'd looked to do at least six sledging sessions of 75 minutes, with a 10 minute break between each session for a cup of tea from one of my two thermoses and a handful of mixed nuts, chocolate drops, and salami slices from my 'sledger's nose-bag', then build this up to at least nine sessions a day as soon as possible. I knew I should plan to cover only 110km in the first 20 days, leaving 660km to cover with the remaining 45 days of supplies. This requires real confidence in the viability of the plan.

Of the cumulative 850 hours I spent hauling my sledge, 30-40 hours were spent fully dressed inside my immersion suit as I swam the open water sections between the ice floes, towing my sledge behind. The first 35 days saw ambient air temperatures ranging from -28°C to -46°C,

but by the final 10 days it was more like -3°C to -15°C. Any temperatures warmer than -20°C were 'positively touristic' if not uncomfortably sweat-inducing given my work rate across the sea ice. However, over the years I'd also realised that if the wind took effective temperatures to below -70°C, it was much more likely I'd make a mistake, and I'd also be dramatically less able to recover the situation due to being on the cusp of what would rapidly become terminal hypothermia.

Entirely alone, with any assistance potentially 10 days away subject to the weather, in a complex and hazardous environment, while constantly pushing myself far beyond my own known limits on several fronts to push back a little further what was known to be humanly possible, is a rare and privileged space to occupy. No mistakes could be made at any scale at any time for 75 days. For those first few days, I just wanted to survive and quietly find my

extraordinary! Until it dawned on me that not only was that basically impossible for very many reasons ... but that they were my own tracks. So intent on finding a way off the floe, I had not realised I had moved through 180° while working my way around the edge of the floe! By Day 62, my brain was struggling to cope with the cumulative stresses of the journey, despite being so tantalizingly close to my final destination. I couldn't even add 8+5+3 in my head as I skied along. I needed to reach the Pole as soon as possible, to finish the job – but then again, not push on and bring about the very misjudgements I feared could yet finish me. Always a balance. Keep calm. Don't blow it now.

Over the final three days I was sledging round the clock for three days and nights to minimize the effect of the southward drifting sea ice on my progress over the ground (ie seabed) to the Pole. If I stopped for too long, I'd never reach the Pole but be carried backwards faster than I could make up for. But my time had finally come to succeed. At 09.54 GMT on 19th May, 64 days after setting off, I stood at 90° North. And how did I feel? I felt utter, utter relief that I had finally done it. My mission had taken 15 years since its inception in 1989. Three attempts. And one vow. All for this one precious private moment. I felt on top of the world!

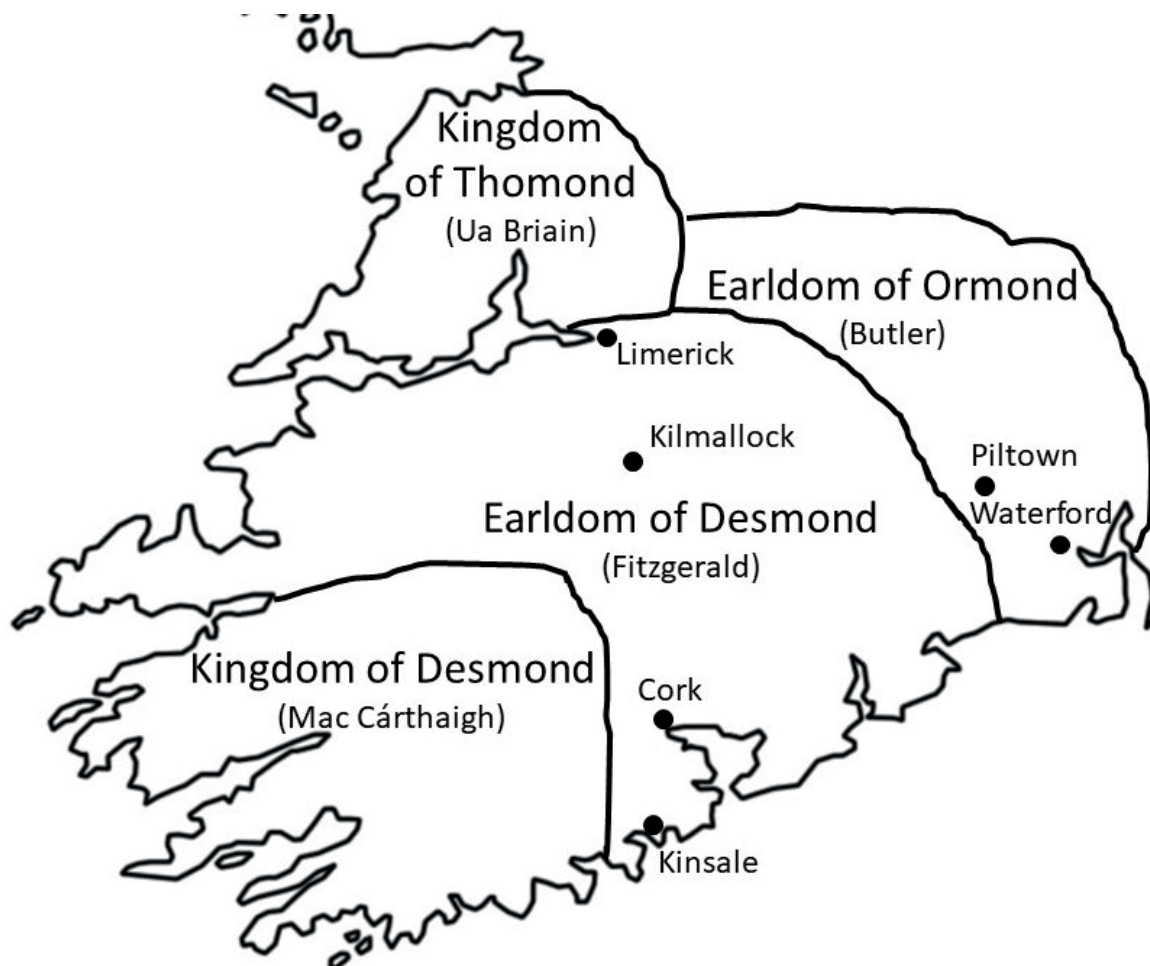
And where has all this led, you may ask? My 25 years travelling on the sea ice and those repeated swims in the Arctic Ocean between the floes opened my eyes to the North Pole region's rapidly diminishing floating ice-reef ecosystem and the wildlife that depends upon this habitat. My rest-of-life mission, delivered through our 90North Unit ocean conservation charity, is to catalyse the process to create the world's largest wildlife reserve – the North Pole Marine Reserve – for the entire area of international waters in the Central Arctic Ocean through an international treaty.

A selection of Pen Hadow's solo North Pole collection of items will be offered for sale in our Orders, Decorations and Medals auction, to be held at Spink London on 8th and 9th December 2020. For further information please contact Marcus Budgen, mbudgen@spink.com.

“I felt utter, utter relief that I had finally done it. My mission had taken 15 years since its inception in 1989. Three attempts. And one vow. All for this one precious private moment. I felt on top of the world!”

routine. My mind lived on a knife-edge for the next month, with the relentless pressures - big and small - exerted by the oppressive cold on my human frame, processes and systems, often frightening to overcome. They took their toll.

By Day 46 around 87° 30" North, I was heading for mental burnout. I know because I made my first mistake and it was a potentially life-ending one. I misjudged the ice thickness and broke through without my immersion suit. Only a well-rehearsed mental drill saved me. On Day 54, having just passed 88° North, while trying to find a way off one ice floe onto another, I came across the ski and sledge tracks of a previous year's expedition. Absolutely



Approximate political map of Munster, 1460. The earldom boundaries encompass regions of feudal control, rather than formal landholdings of the earls, which were a subset.



Oisín Mac Conamhna

THE SEVENTH EARL OF DESMOND, THE ENGLISH JUSTICIARY AND A CORK GROAT

This is the tale of the making of a groat in Cork. It is one of three Irish coins known from the second reign of Henry VI, all of which are Cork groats. The first specimen to be identified was offered for sale in London in 2016¹; a second, from the same obverse die, was identified subsequently in the collection of the National Museum of Ireland. The third specimen, discussed here, is from different dies to the others, with a unique feature that bears contemporary witness, perhaps more eloquently than any other object, to one of the most convulsive events of medieval Irish history. I have had the privilege to study it in collaboration with Gregory Edmund, coin specialist at Spink, to whom I am also grateful for highlighting the apt Latin phrase with which this article concludes.

In the following, primary sources in English, in particular Warkworth's Chronicle and excerpts from letters of the Irish Parliament and Richard III, are quoted in the original Middle English. Primary source material in Hiberno-French from the Statute Rolls of the Irish Parliament is quoted in translation. Quotations from the Irish Annála (Ríoghachta Éireann, Connacht, Uladh, Loch Cé, some contemporary but others collated later from primary material) are translated from Irish.

1. How it all began

On 1st May 1169, Maurice Fitz Gerald, the son of the constable of Pembroke castle, stepped ashore in Ireland at Bannow Bay in County Wexford. He had sailed from Milford Haven as part of the advance guard of Cambro-Norman adventurers who came at the invitation of Diarmat Mac Murchada, to support him in his con-

tention for the high kingship of Ireland;² one of the "*pirates whom he [Diarmat] brought with him from the east, to spoil Éirinn*", in the opinion of the Annála Loch Cé.³ Maurice's two eldest sons, Thomas and Gerald, were the founders of what would become the great Anglo-Irish earldoms of Desmond (*Deas Mumhan*/South Munster) and Kildare respectively.

The earldom of Desmond was established around a landholding that Thomas received from King John in 1199 in the vicinity of Kilfinnane⁴, less than five miles from Kilmallock, in the south of what is now County Limerick. It was the most western, and gaelicised, of the Anglo-Irish earldoms, and developed customs and practices that straddled Gaelic and Anglo-Norman traditions. Its power was sustained by a large standing army supported by the Gaelic tax of *coinnmheadh*, or 'coyne and livery', the levying of free board and billet for large bodies of troops on the local population. The third earl Gearóid (d. 1398) was a noted poet in Irish and French. By 1460, the earldom spanned a region of Munster indicated approximately by Figure 1, comprising parts of the modern counties of Limerick, Cork and Kerry.

The earldom was bordered to the south west by the Gaelic kingdom of Desmond of the Mac Cárthaigh, who had checked the initial Fitzgerald expansion decisively at the battle of Callan in 1261⁵; to the north across the Shannon by the Gaelic kingdom of Thomond (*tuadh Mumhan*/north Munster) of the Ua Briain, the descendants of Brian Bóramha, the victor of Clontarf; and

1 Dix Noonan Webb, 21st March 2016, Lot 890.

2 Martin 1993.

3 Hennessey 1871; entry for 1170.

4 McCormack 2005, 28

5 McCormack, 2005, 30.

“The result was a dangerous dispute, which had to be resolved by Desmond and Sherwood appearing before the king”



to the east by the earldom of Ormond (*oirr Mumhan*/east Munster) of the Butlers, the bitter hereditary rivals of the Fitzgeralds, who alone amongst the major Anglo-Irish families took the Lancastrian side in the War of the Roses. As the power and influence of the Yorkist Desmonds grew, the Ormonds shared in the Lancastrian disaster of the battle of Towton in March 1461. Their fifth earl James was attainted with treason and beheaded in its immediate aftermath, and the family was stripped of their land until 1470.

2. The “Most Excellent of his Tribe”

In 1462, Thomas Fitzgerald succeeded his father as the seventh earl of Desmond, and in August that year, was made constable of Limerick castle for life.⁶ The same summer John Butler, the younger brother of James, landed in force in Waterford in the hope of re-gaining the Ormond earldom; he and his forces were met at Piltown (*Baile an Phuill*/Town of the Blood) by the Desmonds under Fitzgerald, where Desmond and York prevailed, the river ran red, and Butler was “*himself scomfuted put to flight et to rebuke.*”⁷

Rewarded for his loyalty by Edward IV, in April 1463 Fitzgerald reached the height of

his power when he was appointed Lieutenant (Lord) Deputy of Ireland,⁸ the fourth and last of his house to hold the office, replacing William Sherwood, the English-born bishop of Meath⁹. Because of his western upbringing, he had an unusual (for a Lieutenant Deputy) appreciation of, and sympathy for, the concerns of regional Ireland, and he broke with the Pale-centric, eastern-facing focus of his predecessors in office. A core stimulatory component of his policy was the great decentralisation of mint activity he instituted from 1463-5, extending the right to coin from Dublin to Waterford, Limerick, Galway, Trim and Drogheda; with Cork possibly following, in a demi-monde of tolerance, during his lifetime. While it was in his direct personal interests to pursue this policy – given his positions of feudal authority over three of the regional mint locations – it was also undoubtedly in those of the neglected regional populations he represented.

In 1465, he mitigated draconian parliamentary restrictions on the expression of Gaelic identity within the Pale by legalising, and promoting, trade between the Gaelic and

Limerick castle, the great fortress of Munster on the banks of the Shannon, and the site of the Limerick mint. The precise location of the Cork mint is uncertain.

6 *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1461-7* 196

7 *Parliament Roll 3 Edward IV*, 68; Berry 1914, 182

8 *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1461-7* 270

9 Ashdown-Hill & Carson, 2005.

Anglo-Irish communities in Munster¹⁰. And he brought forward a truly visionary plan to establish an Irish university in Drogheda¹¹, anticipating, at least in design, the foundation of Trinity College Dublin by over a century. This year marked his apotheosis. He suffered a serious military defeat in Offaly in 1466;¹² and worse, in a major political blunder, he imposed *coinnmheadh* on the people of the Pale, arousing resentment and suspicion in the political heart of the Lordship.

It would be wrong to deify Fitzgerald, the battle-hardened, imperfect, political son of a brutal age and a warlike house. However, it is clear that he possessed unique, unifying qualities of leadership, genuine cross-community respect and support, and a humanist Renaissance spirit. From the Gaelic perspective of the Annála Ríoghachta Éireann, he was “*the most excellent of his tribe [the Anglo-Irish] in Ireland in his time...for his hospitality and chivalry, his charity and humanity...his bounteousness in bestowing jewels...on the...[Gaelic] poets*”¹³; while from the Annála Uladh “*the learned relate that there was not ever in Ireland a Foreign youth who was better than he*”¹⁴. The Anglo-Irish parliament and council deemed him “*right faithfull et true*” in a letter to the king, and lauded him for his “*Reule manhode wisdom & gouernaunce*” in suppressing rebellion “*without eny hurt off eny person*”¹⁵. Under the guidance of his enlightened policies, the first tentative steps were taken down a long road that is still being trodden by the communities of Ireland today; the road to a shared future of respectful co-existence, founded on economic and cultural exchange to mutual benefit, within a society supportive of learning and the arts. With counterfactual naivety, one might conceive of an alternative Ireland, where the brave initiatives of Fitzgerald’s short tenure were allowed to mature and develop under his

unifying leadership; another Ireland in which the road yet to be travelled was shorter, and not so drenched with blood. But it was not to be. The terse final entry of the Annála Ríoghachta Éireann for 1467 reads: “*An English Justiciary came in Ireland, and Thomas was replaced, and the ruin of Ireland came thereafter.*”¹⁶

3. The English Justiciary

John Tiptoft, the earl of Worcester, was born to a prominent Lancastrian family in 1427, and studied theology at University College Oxford. His first wife was a Yorkist, and he shifted his allegiance as the power of Richard of York waxed through the 1450s. He was appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1456, but in 1457 he departed for Italy, remaining there until 1461, perhaps in a deliberate attempt to avoid the great instabilities of those years of the War of the Roses. While there, he devoted himself piously to religion, and to the enthusiastic study of the merciless tenets of ancient Roman law at the University of Padua. On his return to England he was appointed Constable of the Tower and Lord High Constable by Edward IV, the latter position giving him the scope to demonstrate a notable penchant for torture and summary execution. He was made Lord Chancellor in January 1464, and on the 26th of that month he appointed Sherwood as Lord Chancellor of Ireland. However, the day before in Ireland, Fitzgerald had appointed his kinsman the earl of Kildare (who, confusingly, was also named Thomas Fitzgerald), to the same post, in an appointment confirmed by the Irish parliament. The result was a dangerous dispute, which had to be resolved by Desmond and Sherwood appearing before the king¹⁷. Edward retained Desmond as his Lord Deputy, and made him lord of the manor of Trim¹⁸ (where the mint would open soon after, perhaps not coincidentally). It is reasonable to infer that the affair created (or deepened) ill will between Fitzgerald on the one hand, and Tiptoft and Sherwood on the other, the latter emerging as the leader of the

10 Parliament Roll 3 Edward IV, 44; Berry 1914, 139

11 Parliament Rolls, Berry 1914, 299-303.

12 Quinn 1993, 600.

13 O'Donovan, 1851. Entry for 1468.

14 Mac Carthy, 1895. Entry for 1468.

15 Parliament Rolls, Berry 1914, 181-187

16 O'Donovan, 1851.

17 McCormack 2005, 60.

18 Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1461-7 340.

small faction in Ireland opposed to Fitzgerald. Tiptoft was re-appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1465, though due to concerns elsewhere was unable to take up the post, so Fitzgerald was retained until late in 1467, when Tiptoft arrived in Ireland.

He soon summoned a parliament in Drogheda in the north of the Pale, which Fitzgerald attended, by Desmond accounts with letters guaranteeing safe passage. There Tiptoft attainted both Thomases with treason, for “*alliance, fosterage and alterage [altradh/nursing] with the Irish enemies of the king*”.¹⁹ Kildare managed to escape, to plead his case successfully before Edward IV; but Desmond was seized from a friary²⁰, in violation of sanctuary, by Tiptoft’s men on 15th February. They dragged him, protesting his loyalty and innocence, to the scaffold, and struck off his head. Then they struck off the heads of two of his sons, the older of whom was thirteen.²¹ As he followed his father and brother to the block, the younger requested that care be taken of an abscess, from which he suffered on his neck, in his decapitation.²²

4. The Doom of Desmond, and the Judgement on the Justiciary

“*Great and uncountable was the loss in that place, though the numbers slain were few*”,²³ wrote the Four Masters in their assessment, from a Gaelic perspective, of the Battle of Kinsale in 1601; but they could as well have written it, from the perspective of both communities, of the site of Fitzgerald’s execution. “*The hearts of the men of Ireland and of their wives were broken*”, was the lament of the Annála Connacht. The event would shake and fracture the Lordship to its core, and weave a weft of woe with few parallels through the fabric of Ireland’s history, a scarlet strand that threaded the fates of generations. Despite the restoration of Thomas’s land and titles to his son James by Ed-

ward in August 1468, it wrought the slow, creeping, inexorable doom of the House of Desmond. The breach with the crown, brought about by its representative, was too great to be mended; for in the words of Richard III, Fitzgerald had been “*extorciously slayne and muredred by colour of the lawes...ayenst alle manhode, reason and good conscience*.”²⁴ That this befell the Anglo-Irish leader most sympathetic to, and respectful of, the Gaelic community, and, nominally at least, for that very reason²⁵, only compounded the disaster. For decades, Fitzgerald’s Desmond successors would assert the right not to be summoned to parliament, or to be required to enter walled towns, granted them by Edward IV in token of atonement; and they rose in outright rebellion repeatedly. They aligned themselves ever more closely to the Gael, and were to initiate the strategy of continental agitation for intervention in support of their cause, which, for the Gael, was to be brought to calamitous fruition at Kinsale. The sectarianism which followed the English Reformation heightened tensions with the crown to an unsustainable degree, and the House of Desmond fell in final ruin in 1583, with the fugitive death of Gerald, the fifteenth and last earl, whose head would adorn London Bridge²⁶ after one rebellion too many. There followed the Plantation of Munster, by Protestant colonists from England and Wales on seized Desmond land in 1586, priming a sectarian powder keg that would explode in an orgy of violence in the War of the Three Kingdoms.

This mischief accomplished, Tiptoft devalued the Irish coinage by half, and caused it to be marked with an unmistakeable new design, the reverse radiant sun of his “Doubles”. The outcome was economic chaos and great hardship for the Pale, by which, quoth the parliament in 1470, the “*people are so greatly impoverished...*

19 Parliament Roll 7 & 8 Edward IV, 17; Berry 1914, 465

20 Ashdown-Hill & Carson, 2005.

21 Ashdown-Hill & Carson, 2005.

22 Calendar of the Carew Manuscripts at Lambeth, vol. 5, The Book of Howth, pp. 186-187; quoted in Ashdown-Hill & Carson, 2005.

23 O’Donovan 1851, entry for 1601.

24 J. Gairdner, ed., Letters and Papers Illustrative of the Reigns of Richard III and Henry VII, 2 vols., vol. 1, London 1861, p 68. Quoted in Ashdown-Hill & Carson, 2005.

25 The Desmond belief, explored in detail in Ashdown-Hill & Carson, 2005, was that the true reason was the unholy revenge of a spiteful queen.

26 McCormack 2005, 17.

“it is clear that he possessed unique, unifying qualities of leadership, genuine cross-community respect and support, and a humanist Renaissance spirit”

that many of [them]...are like to perish from want”.²⁷ Meanwhile, in the immediate Desmond response to the execution, Gerrot Fitzgerald, younger brother of Thomas, “of his haughty will and malice prepanse” mustered the Desmond host and marched across Ireland to rampage through Meath and Kildare, where they “with banner displayed in manner of war...over[ran], burned, wasted and destroyed the King’s faithful subjects inhabiting therein”²⁸. Tiptoft appears to have withdrawn to Dublin in the face of this onslaught, forsaking the Pale to the swords and fire of the raging zenith of Desmond might. It is probable that the Meath estates of William Sherwood suffered particular devastation in the attack. Following their campaign, they withdrew to Munster in smouldering rebellion, and were not to be even partially reconciled to the crown until 1476, when James was appointed constable of Limerick castle by Edward²⁹ in a sign of rapprochement. The office had been left unfilled since Thomas’s death, the castle manifestly outside of Edward’s control.

Tiptoft was later recalled to England, and in 1470 Edward made him the judge of captured soldiers of the forces of the duke of Clarence and the earl of Warwick. This gave him a last stage on which to demonstrate his indifference to human life, which he now refined to a grotesque extremity of barbarism unprecedented in the England of his day: “and so XX. Persones of gentylmen and yeomenne were hangede, drawne, and quartered, and hedede; and after that thei hanged uppe by the leggyss, and a stake made scharpe at bothe endes, whereof one ende was putt in att bottokys, and the other ende ther heddes were putt uppe one”.³⁰ But he was unable to flee with Edward IV on Henry VI’s readeption, and, “juged be suche lawe as he dyde to other menne”,³¹ he went to his own dismemberment by the Lancastrians on Tower Hill, for the second time, on 16th October 1470. He had survived the first

occasion because of the multitudinous crowd which assembled to witness his destruction, causing it to be postponed. On the way, he was challenged by an Italian priest for his murder of Fitzgerald’s children; his response was that he had done it for the state.³² Then, in the thunderous phrase of the Annála Ríoghachta Éireann, “the earl of Warwick and the duke of Clarence made quarters of the wreck of the curses of the men of Ireland.”³³ Pointedly, none of the Irish Annála ever mention his name. And so he died, “gretely behatede emonge the peple”³⁴ of England and Ireland alike.



The exalted tomb of “that savage murderer and fearsome beheader of men”³⁵, John Tiptoft, in Ely cathedral.

27 Parliament Roll 10 Edward IV, 4; Berry 1914, 651-3.

28 Parliament Roll 7 & 8 Edward IV, 69; Berry 1914, 617.

29 Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1467-76 595.

30 Halliwell 1839, 8.

31 Halliwell 1839, 13.

32 A. Mai and A. Bartoli, eds., Vite di Uomini Illustri del Secolo XV scritte da Vespasiano da Bisticci, Florence 1859, p. 404. Quoted, with translation, by Ashdown-Hill & Carson, 2005.

33 O’Donovan 1851. Entry for 1470. Derived from the corresponding entry in the Annála Connacht, which predates it.

34 Halliwell 1839, 8.

35 Translation of “ille trux carnifex et hominum decollator horridus”, the contemporary opinion of a partisan Yorkist chronicler on the same side as Tiptoft, quoted with citation in Halliwell 1839, 63.

5. The coins that bear witness

“Almost nothing remains of the written records of the Desmonds, their earldom or their lordship”³⁶ due to their extinction in the 16th century, as noted by a leading scholar of the House. Almost nothing – apart from their coins. The coins bear few words; but as the only available medium of mass written communication in a society before the printing press, the words that they bear speak clearly indeed. The Desmond mints continued their activities through much of the 1470s, despite repeated commands by the Irish parliament to stop (the parliament itself recognised the futility of doing so: “*the King’s writs do not run and are not obeyed amongst them*”³⁷). It is likely that they persisted in activity, at least sporadically, until the thaw in relations with the crown in 1476, and the final parliamentary condemnation of their outputs in 1477.

The Limerick mint was the more prolific, operating from the centre of Desmond power and wealth in the castle. The precise dating of many of its issues is conjectural; but what is not is a very clear change in the representation of Edward IV, and his relationship to the earldom, that was published by the mint at some point from 1465-1477. This is illustrated by the coins of Figure 4. The obvious interpretation is that this change was caused by Fitzgerald’s execution, and documents how attitudes within the earldom responded to it; and that the illustrated coins were issued either side of 15th February 1468.

And so to Cork, on an October day in 1470, far beyond the Pale and the coloured law of the fractured Lordship, in a wounded earldom that has fought and won the only battle of the War of the Roses on Irish soil for the Yorkist cause, only to see their greatest son consumed by a monster in the service of the crown; while in London, Henry VI of Lancaster sits again on the throne of England. To a unique moneyer preparing his tools in an illicit mint: seven punches, his hammer, and a die in the name of EDWARDVS, from which, in a vestige of allegiance, he has been issuing groats independently



Two Limerick groats of the period 1465-1476. The legends, read from these and other specimens from the same dies, translate as: Left, EDWARD BY THE GRACE OF GOD LORD OF IRELAND; Right, EDWARD BY THE GRACE OF GOD KING OF ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

“in a wounded earldom that has fought and won the only battle of the War of the Roses on Irish soil for the Yorkist cause, only to see their greatest son consumed by a monster in the service of the crown”

³⁶ McCormack 2005, 20.

³⁷ Parliament Roll 15 & 16 Edward IV, 55; Morrissey 1939, 376-381



Cork groat, HENRIC' over EDWARDVS; unique.
[Image courtesy Spink.]

for months, in defiance of his enemy's devaluation and design. One of the coins from his Edward die will survive, and, centuries hence, find its way to the collection of the National Museum of Ireland. But the task on which he is engaged as we join him is of a different sort; and he is the only moneyer of his time who will perform it. He knows that by it his head may be forfeit, should he ever be taken by Yorkist authority. His name is John Fannyng; and his staff in Cork and nearby towns are John Crone, Patrick Martell, William Synnot, Morytagh O'Hanrighan and Nicholas Rewy. What he does not yet know is that within two years, they will all be outlawed and attainted with treason³⁸, for what he is about to do.

A few blows with his blank punch, and the king's name starts to disappear. He positions his next punch carefully over Edward's W. Perhaps he thinks of his lost earl Thomas as the hammer falls: **H**. Perhaps he thinks of Fitzgerald's murdered children: **E**. Perhaps he thinks of the ruin of Desmond, and of Ireland: **N**. Just perhaps, he is a pragmatic artisan, and thinks nothing of such things but only of his work in hand: **R**. Whatever he is thinking, the next blow falls so heavily that it breaks the punch: **I**. And perhaps, as he readies to strike the final letter, he thinks of Tiptoft, and of another old Roman practice that might be learned of in Padua: *Damnatio memoriae*, **C**.

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³⁸ Parliament Roll 12 & 13 Edward IV, 10; Morrissey 1939, 17–19

VOICE OF A NEW GENERATION

A homemade first day cover commemorates the launch of the SpaceX Crew Dragon aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket which was launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre on the 30th May 2020. The cover has been postmarked at Houston, Texas, the home to the ISS Mission Control Centre.



The Space Stamp Album was published in 1974 by Scott's publishing for the United States Postal Service. The album contains pictures of stamps which the collector can source and mount in the album.



The centre pages focuses on the Moon. Descriptive text and spaces for eight stamps can be mounted on these pages.



Katrin Raynor-Evans

SPACE AND ASTRONOMY CELEBRATED THROUGH THEMATIC PHILATELY AND OTHER COLLECTABLES

Philately is a new interest of mine, for no real reason than that I had not given it much attention before. My ignorance on the subject changed around five years ago when I was admiring a few first day covers that my father had: a keen stamp collector, he has amassed thousands of stamps over the years. I had just completed a GCSE in astronomy via evening classes; with my curiosity piqued, I started to wonder what astronomy- and space-themed stamps were out there.

I have been interested in astronomy since I was a teenager – seeing Saturn through a telescope, its rings clearly visible, is an image that I have never forgotten. At that time, in the late 1990s, I was lucky enough to see some fantastic astronomical events including Comet Hale-Bopp and the solar eclipse of 1999. Some of my most cherished memories involve standing outside and looking up.

My philatelic collection has grown hugely in these five years, from focusing solely on UK issues of astronomy-themed stamps to now owning a substantial amount of global philatelic material. Just this morning two more packages plonked onto my doorstep! This time, a hefty envelope from Maryland USA containing covers commemorating the launch of SpaceX Demo 2 and another from Cambridge which included a rather fantastic space stamp album from 1974. Fellow philatelists and astronomers all over the world selflessly indulge me in my passion of collecting astronomy- and space-themed stamps, first day covers and other items.

Astronomy and space have long been commemorated on stamps and other philatelic material. In fact, the first astronomy stamp dates as far back as 1887, when Brazil issued a stamp depicting *Crux Australis*, the Southern Cross. What follows is a short cosmic journey of a small sample of my collection interwoven with the moments in history that inspired them, starting with Apollo and concluding with the detection of ripples in the fabric of space-time from the outer reaches of the Universe.



The first astronomy stamp dates to 1887 when Brazil issued a stamp illustrating Crux Australis, the Southern Cross, an asterism seen in the constellation of Crux in the Southern Hemisphere.

We Came in Peace for All Mankind

I have been incredibly lucky to receive some fantastic Apollo memorabilia from philatelists in America, including a mint stamp sheet of 32 ten cent stamps that were issued on 9th September 1969, depicting Neil Armstrong disembarking from 'Eagle', the Lunar Module. The stamp was

On the 9th September 1969, the United States Postal Service issued a stamp commemorating man landing on the Moon. The 10-cent stamp depicts Neil Armstrong taking his first step onto the lunar surface.

designed by Paul Calle, one of NASA's first eight space artists. The engraving plate used for the stamp was flown to the Moon aboard Apollo 11.

Fast forward twenty years later to 20th July 1989. Paul Calle was asked to design the cachet for the first day cover celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Moon landing while his son, Chris, designed the \$2.40 stamp illustrating Aldrin and Armstrong deploying the flag on the Moon. I have one of these covers in my collection which has been autographed by them both.

The Apollo programme ran for 11 years from 1961 to 1972 and in that time NASA successfully landed man on the Moon six times. An interesting autographed cover that I have commemorates the Apollo 16 mission. The aim of the mission was to survey, collect samples, deploy and activate surface experiments on the Moon's surface. George Carruthers, an African American space scientist, invented the ultraviolet camera/spectrograph which was deployed on the surface of the Moon during the mission. This was the first Moon-based space observatory. Signed by Carruthers, the cover is date-stamped 20th April 1972, the date Apollo 16 astronauts Charles Duke and John Young landed on the Moon.

Last year stamps and covers were issued all over the world to mark the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing. Aside from philatelic material, I have been sent some wonderful items including a challenge coin made by Military Coins USA. Made from brass and coloured enamel, the design on the coin illustrates the original Apollo 11 mission patch and depicts an Eagle, the national symbol of the US, clutching an olive branch. On the reverse the coin is struck with the three names of the astronauts, Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong and Michael Collins, along with the date Aldrin and Armstrong landed on the Moon. Four symbols including the NASA logo and the pin given to astronauts when they are accepted into the astronaut corps feature on the coin.

This challenge coin nicely complements a lightweight Apollo 11 silver-coloured token that I received. Unfortunately, I do not know much about the background of this token other than



Father and son, Paul Calle and Chris Calle were approached to design the \$2.40 priority mail stamp and first day cover which would celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Moon landing in 1989.



Apollo 16 was the penultimate mission to the Moon. The ultraviolet/spectrograph which was deployed in the Descartes Highlands of the lunar surface was invented by George R Carruthers, who signed the cover. The two stamps affixed to the cover were issued to coincide with a previous mission, Apollo 15.



A weighty brass and enamel challenge coin was produced in 2019 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing.

that it dates back to 1969, but I find the small circular token a perfect example of how coins and stamps can provide an insight into space history through simple images and just a few words.

The Hubble Space Telescope

In 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) launched from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida aboard the orbiter *Discovery*; the telescope's launch was the 35th mission of the space shuttle program and massively transformed our understanding of the Universe and our place within it. Orbiting 340 miles above the Earth, the telescope has discovered moons orbiting Pluto, collected data about galaxies and even contributed data for research on black holes. The HST celebrated its 30th anniversary on 24th April this year.



A silver 'token' was made to commemorate the Moon landing in 1969. One side of the token illustrates astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins whilst the opposite side displays the text 'We Came in Peace for All Mankind'.

“What follows is a short cosmic journey of a small sample of my collection interwoven with the moments in history that inspired them”



*Three covers in my collection provide an interesting insight into three key dates of Hubble's existence: : April 24, 1990, the date of orbiter *Discovery*'s launch; April 25, 1990, the date that the telescope was deployed; and April 29, 1990, the date that *Discovery* touched back down to Earth.*



On February 11, 1997, seven crew members were launched aboard *Discovery* to undertake repairs and upgrades of the Hubble Space Telescope. Four covers have been signed by the crew

On 11th February 1997 seven crew members were launched aboard *Discovery* to undertake repairs and upgrades of the HST. This was the 82nd mission of the space shuttle program. Four covers in my collection have been signed by four of the five Mission Specialists - Joseph Tanner, Mark Lee, Steven Smith and Steven Hawley. Mark Lee and Steven Smith carried out three of the five EVAs (Extra Vehicular Activity) while Gregory Harbaugh, also a Mission Specialist, and Joseph Tanner undertook the other two. Steven Hawley, an already accomplished astronaut, was part of STS-31, the mission that launched the HST in 1990.

Comets and Asteroids

Comets have been the cause of fascination and fear for centuries and their appearance has often been commemorated philatelically. Comet Kohoutek is perhaps best remembered as the comet that never was. The long period comet was hyped to be the comet of the century but unfortunately, it was not to be. Discovered in 1973 by Luboš Kohoutek, a Czech astronomer, the naked eye comet largely disintegrated upon its approach to the Sun hence it was not as bright as expected. It will make its next approach to Earth in 75,000 years.

There are plenty of covers available marking the occasion but no stamps to my knowledge. A home-made cover in my collection celebrates the closest approach of the comet to Earth and

is signed by Kohoutek. A stamp of Copernicus, the famous 15th century astronomer, is affixed to the cover and it has been date stamped 15th January 1974, the date of the comet's closest approach to Earth.



NASA launched Skylab in the 1970s and operated between 1973 and 1974. It was America's first space station. The crew of Skylab 4 were tasked with observing comet Kohoutek using the on-board solar observatory. A photograph from Skylab's white light coronagraph experiment which shows the comet taken on 27th December 1973, 106 million miles from Earth, forms a wonderful addition to my collection.

Named after the famous astronomer Edmond Halley, Halley's comet is perhaps the most

Luboš Kohoutek discovered comet C/1973 E1 on the 7th March 1973. After receiving a letter and a homemade cover from a keen space stamp collector, Kohoutek signed the cover and returned to sender.



A set of four beautiful silk first day covers issued by Benham on the 18th February 1986 to celebrate the return of Halley's comet. Halley's comet is a short period comet and will appear again from mid-2061 to 2062.



A photograph of comet Kohoutek taken on the 27th December 1973 from the High Altitude Observatory White Light Coronagraph aboard Skylab. The comet is visible on the right-hand side of the photograph.

famous short period comet in our history due to its return period of 76 years. Some of us may even see it twice in our lifetimes. The comet has been recorded as far back as 240 BC in China and was embroidered onto the world-famous Bayeux Tapestry.

The appearance of Halley's comet in 1985 was celebrated globally on stamps, and here in the UK the Royal Mail issued a fantastic set of four stamps in 1986 which were illustrated by the famous cartoonist, Ralph Steadman. The stamps are colourful and imaginative. They depict a rather disgruntled but comical-looking Halley; an image of two comets to represent seeing it twice in a lifetime; and Giotto and the comet orbiting the Sun. Ian Ridpath, amateur astronomer and keen philatelist, signed a first day cover issued by Benham when we met at the Cardiff Astronomical Society in 2019.



Ian Ridpath, astronomy writer and fellow philatelist delivered a talk about comets to the Cardiff Astronomical Society in 2019 and signed a Halley's comet first day cover issued by Benham for my collection.

A set of first day covers that I enjoy collecting are those that were issued by Presentation Philatelic Services, London between (from what I gather) 1984 and 1995. Research on this wonderful collection has proven to be fruitless for me and I know little about the history or thought behind them, but it is my aim to one day own the complete series. The card inlay does explain however that each issue depicts a fine art painting or other collectable auctioned by Sotheby's of London.

The first day cover issued to commemorate the Halley's comet stamp set is number 19 in the 1986 series. A beautiful silk cachet of a portable refracting telescope manufactured by Peter Dolland, well-known maker of optical instruments, adorns the cover. The telescope was sold by Sotheby's at auction in 1985 for £22,000.

It is 25 years this year that Hale-Bopp was discovered. Moving across our skies for approximately 18 months, Hale-Bopp was the most observed comet of the 20th century. Discovered independently by Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp in the United States on 23rd July 1995, the comet passed perihelion on 1st April 1997, and shone bright at magnitude of +2. Even in light polluted towns and cities, it was visible to the naked eye.

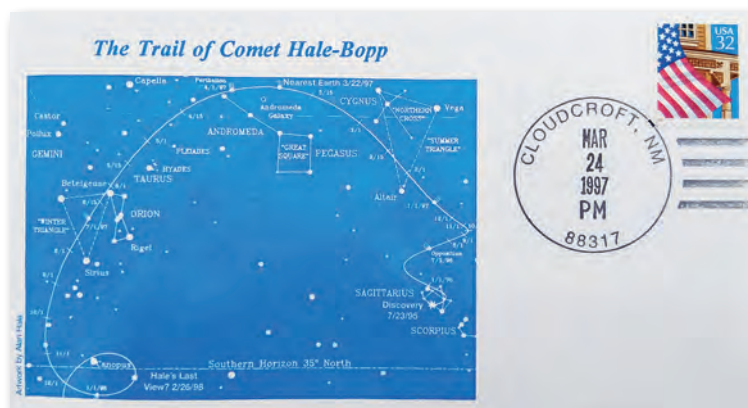
Very few stamps were issued to celebrate this exciting event, but in my collection I have a homemade cover commemorating the comet, sent to me by a former NASA employee who specialises in making his own covers. The cover is postmarked at Cloudcroft, New Mexico where Alan Hale first made the discovery.

On 26th June 2018, Luxembourg Post in collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA) issued a stamp commemorating Asteroid Day 2018. The stamp itself shows a picture of Didymos, a binary-asteroid system. The stamp is attached within a birthday card-sized booklet and there is an attractive circular frank on the top right of the booklet which illustrates our solar system, the asteroid belt alongside the event being celebrated and the date of issue.

The booklet I have is signed by astronomer Matt Dawson. Dawson lives in Luxembourg and runs the Near-Earth Asteroid observing

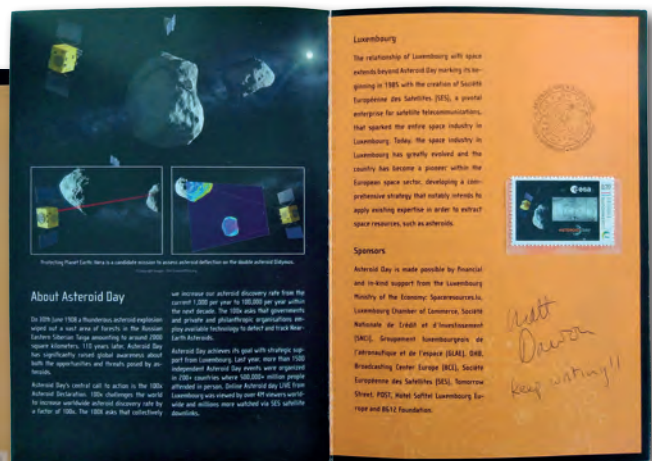
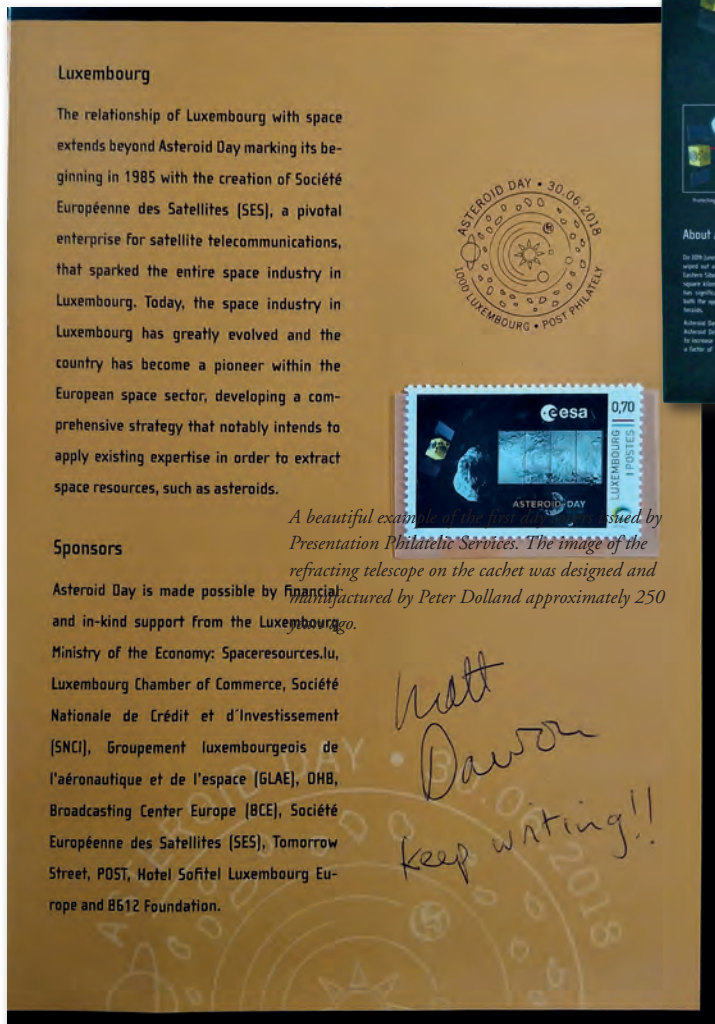


A beautiful example of the first day covers issued by Presentation Philatelic Services. The image of the refracting telescope on the cachet was designed and manufactured by Peter Dolland approximately 250 years ago.



Hale Bopp was dubbed the great comet of 1997. This homemade cover illustrates the path that the comet took during its journey around the Sun. Very few stamps were issued to celebrate its arrival from the outer solar system.

programme at the Observatoire des Côtes-de-Meuse in France. He has discovered a great deal of asteroids in his time, such as asteroid 248750 which he named *Asteroidday* to commemorate the globally celebrated Asteroid Day. Dawson and I met at the Royal Astronomical Society in November 2018 where he kindly gifted me his booklet and signed it with some encouraging words.



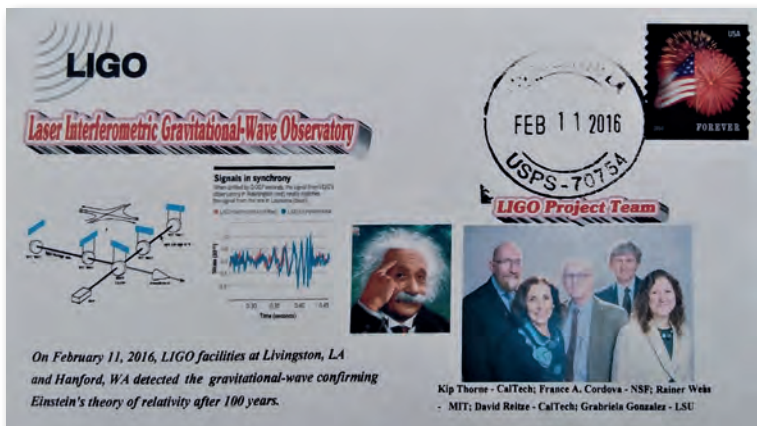
In 2018 and in co-operation with the European Space Agency and Asteroid Day, the Luxembourg Post issued a stamp depicting Hera-a mission to Didymos, a double asteroid system. Matt Dawson gifted his booklet to me, which he signed during our meeting at the Royal Astronomical Society.

Gravitational Waves

The Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to Barry Barish, Rainer Weiss and Kip Thorne in 2017 for contributions to the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) detector and the observation of gravitational waves, ripples in space-time. This discovery confirmed one of Albert Einstein's major predictions of his general theory of relativity.

LIGO detected the first-ever observation of gravitational waves on 14th September 2015. A homemade cover illustrating Albert Einstein and the LIGO project team was sent to me last year, date stamped on 11th February 2016 – the date that the public announcement of the detection of gravitational waves was made. I did not know then that a few months after receiving this cover, I would meet Kip Thorne, famous theoretical physicist in person!

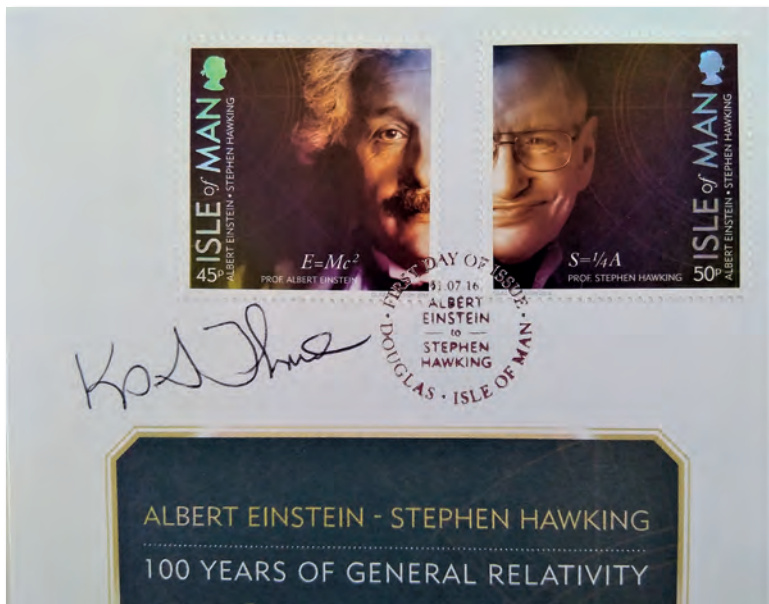
Professor Thorne had just opened a new physics laboratory at Cardiff University and delivered a talk called 'My Romance with the Warped Side of the Universe', which I attended. Professor Bernard Schutz was also present, who I had recently interviewed for the Royal Astronomical Society, following the presentation of the Eddington Medal award to him for his work in gravitational waves.



The detection of gravitational waves in 2015 was a huge breakthrough in understanding our universe and the discipline of cosmology. This homemade cover was date stamped on the day that the public announcement of gravitational waves was made.

“Learning and understanding the subject of the history of space flight and astronomy through collecting is unique and enjoyable, proving that the miniature world of philately can open a huge window on to our vast and beautiful Universe”





The wonderful stamps issued in 2016 to celebrate the centenary of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity were affixed to first day covers. Professor Kip Thorne and Professor Bernard Schutz, both experts in the field of gravitational waves signed my cover.

I took with me the *100 Years of General Relativity* first day cover which was issued by the Isle of Man post office on 1st July 2016. Announced at Starmus 2016, an international festival focussed on celebrating astronomy, six stamps illustrating black holes, gravitational waves and Hawking Radiation, along with two images of Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking, are illustrated on the earthly coloured stamps ranging in value from 45p to £2.44. The pictures are printed on iridescent foil which really makes them unique and eye-catching. The cancellation is in silver ink and displays the names of Einstein and Hawking. Professor Thorne and Professor Schutz autographed the cover, forming an invaluable piece in my collection.

Philately provides no end of joy and wonder for me. Researching one stamp or postmark, autograph or cancellation has expanded my knowledge on subjects that I knew little about before. Learning and understanding the subject of the history of space flight and astronomy through collecting is unique and enjoyable, proving that the miniature world of philately can open a huge window on to our vast and beautiful Universe.

About the author:

Katrin Raynor-Evans is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and Royal Geographical Society. She is a member of the European Astronomical Society and Astro Space Stamp Society. She writes articles and interviews for popular astronomy magazines including the BBC Sky at Night, and is the Features Editor for the Society for Popular Astronomy's magazine, *Popular Astronomy*. She is co-authoring her first book and recently asteroid 446500 Katrinraynor was named after her. To contact Katrin please email her at katmonster_2000@yahoo.co.uk.



he Arms of Sir AR Cutler

To all and singular to whom these Presents shall come Sir Alexander Colin Cole, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, upon whom has been conferred the Territorial Decoration, Garter Principal King of Sir Arthur Roden Cutler of Cinah-

ORDERS, DECORATIONS AND MEDALS IN HERALDIC FORM

For the majority of medal collectors, it is the physical object of the medal itself or researching ‘the man behind the medal’ that tends to be a major focus: however, the design or incorporation of Orders, Decorations and Medals into other forms can lead to some interesting discoveries – such as in Coats of Arms. These ‘grants’ are designed and issued (with some exceptions) exclusively by the College of Arms. Mark Scott, Bluemantle Pursuivant, here outlines the history of the College and one of their more ‘medal-heavy’ grants of arms ...

Most people are vaguely aware of the existence of the College of Arms. Perhaps they have passed its 17th century building just south of St Paul’s Cathedral, or seen a state occasion on television with the strange, magnificent heralds in stockings and tabards preceding the Queen. Or, more often as not, they have read or seen the College’s single brush with popular culture, *On Her Majesty’s Secret Service*, where James Bond (one senses Ian Fleming beginning to run out of ideas) impersonates a herald to infiltrate Blofeld’s lair. But no-one ever quite knows what it is heralds actually do, or why Britain seems to need an institution which most other countries in the world manage quite happily without.

The College is in fact not particularly unique in what it does. Every country in the world has national symbols or emblems and as a result most countries have some form of authority to oversee their use. In some cases it may be a few civil servants, a state council, or even a dedicated department. What gives the College of Arms its unusual nomenclature is simply Britain’s relatively smooth constitutional history; so while in France, Mountjoy King of Arms, Burgundy Herald and their colleagues were swept away to be replaced by the modern republic’s comparatively unromantic National

Commission of Heraldry, Britain retains its Garter King of Arms, Windsor Herald, and Rouge Dragon Pursuivant; as, after all, the symbols and places those officers are named after still have as much royal and national significance as they did on the day of their creation. What does distinguish the College from its international counterparts is its corporate structure, still the one introduced by the Royal Charter granted by Queen Mary and King Philip in 1555, which made it a self-governing corporation, part of the Royal Household but with its own building and property, with decisions made by the College’s Chapter, a now-monthly meeting of its officers.

The officers of the College, popularly all called heralds, consist in fact of three ranks – kings, heralds and pursuivants of arms. There are three kings, who may be thought of as the senior management of the College. Garter King of Arms is head of the corporation, principal adviser to the Sovereign and Government on heraldic and ceremonial matters, and with a specific responsibility for the peerage (hence his presence at the introduction of new peers in the House of Lords) and, as may be inferred from his title, the Order of the Garter. Beneath him are the two provincial kings, who in modern terms would be called regional managers – Clarenceux, responsible for the south of England, and Norroy and Ulster, for the north of England and Northern Ireland. Then there are the six heralds, all named after royal places – Chester, Lancaster, Richmond, Somerset, York and Windsor – and the four pursuivants, each named after a royal symbol – Bluemantle, Portcullis, Rouge Croix and Rouge Dragon. At any time there may also be several heralds and pursuivants extraordinary – honorary officers with careers elsewhere, usually appointed due to some significant contribution to the field of heraldry. Most significant of these



Sir Arthur Roden Cutler VC, AK, KCMG, KCVO, CBE (1916 – 2002)



The Waiting Room

are Wales Herald and New Zealand Herald, who act as both the College's representatives in those countries and as its advisers on their particular heraldic customs. The officers of the College are assisted by an expert staff, made up of artists, scriveners, conservators, archivists and administrators.

Importantly, the College is self-financing, with the crown salaries paid to its officers having long since been reduced to insignificance by inflation – a pursuivant receives £13.95 per annum, with the salary scale rising all the way to Garter King of Arms' princely annual compensation of £49.07. The upkeep of the Grade 1 listed building and the College's records is thus funded by the official fees charged for the College's various services, such as new grants of arms, while its officers make a living through running private practices in heraldry and genealogy. While this creates the ever-present challenge of the College needing to meet its outgoings from what it earns from providing its services, this likewise frees the College from relying on public funding, in an age where heraldry is unlikely to be on any government's list of spending priorities.

The work actually carried out by those at the College can be broadly divided into three categories – ceremonial, genealogical and armorial. The ceremonial aspect of the heralds'

duties relates to their involvement in organising and marshalling the great state and royal ceremonies. The only such ceremonies which happen on a regular basis are the State Opening of Parliament, and Garter Day at Windsor Castle, the annual ceremony of the Order of the Garter where new companions are installed. But when they occur, the heralds also play a key role in State Funerals and Coronations. There has, of course, been an unprecedented gap since either of these last occurred, the latest respectively being the state funeral of Sir Winston Churchill in 1965, planned in advance at the College of Arms under the codename OPERATION HOPE NOT, and the coronation of our present Queen in 1953.

The genealogical work of the heralds is much like the family research done by the many private genealogists up and down the country, albeit with the ability to call upon the College's significant collections of genealogical records, to which any family may add themselves by recording (subject to strict examination of the evidence provided) an official pedigree at the College. Unsurprisingly, heralds frequently specialise in proving claims to hereditary titles, which range from the simple (when a title passes to a child of the last holder) to the incredibly complex, such as when a title passes to a distant



The Earl Marshal and Officers of Arms

line of the family, descended from an early bearer of the title, and with each step in the subsequent descent needing to be proved.

The armorial (or heraldic) work of the heralds consists of various facets. Heralds perform heraldic research for clients, researching whether they themselves have a right to arms, or compiling reports on the heraldry of individuals or families in which they may have personal or scholarly interests. A significant branch of heraldic research is identifying coat of arms, whether on signet rings, silverware, stained glass, or any item on which heraldry appears, and in many cases where other approaches have been exhausted, heralds have been able to provide provenance for sellers, identify family heirlooms, and identify otherwise unknown sitters in portraits. Heralds can also commission heraldic artwork and copies of pedigrees for clients from the College's artists.

The most interesting and unique aspect of the College's heraldic work, however, is the granting of new coats of arms. Kings of arms upon their appointment by the Queen are empowered to exercise the royal prerogative to grant arms, and around 140 new grants are made each year, to a range of people and institutions in the UK and the other Commonwealth realms. The personal grantees include new recipients of state

honours, incumbents of offices which give good opportunity to make use of heraldry (bishops, high sheriffs, treasurers of Inns of Court and so on) and people who simply apply to be granted arms for their own reasons, unrelated to any new appointment. Unlike in other European nations where grants of arms came with nobility, bearing of arms in the United Kingdom has always been open to wider classes; a Tudor grantee of arms was John Shakespeare, an obscure Stratford-upon-Avon Alderman whose son achieved rather greater fame as a playwright. The traditional requirement that a grantee of arms was a gentleman (or indeed gentlewoman) has essentially been interpreted in modern times as someone who holds professional status, with university degrees, professional qualifications, civil and military offices or similar, all qualifying an individual for a grant.

The College grants arms to subjects of the Crown in all of Her Majesty's realms, including Australia and New Zealand, with the exceptions of Scotland and Canada, both of which have their own heralds; though honorary arms can be granted to citizens of former British possessions, whether Americans, Indians and so on, who can demonstrate descent from a subject of the Crown. The letters patent on vellum making such grants follow the same form they have taken

since the fifteenth century, with a painting of the arms being granted alongside decorative royal heraldry, the formal legal text of the grant, and the signatures and wax seals of the kings of arms. The real skill for a modern herald is to be able to design arms which remain simple and dignified in the spirit of medieval heraldry, and yet can still represent the lives of modern individuals whose achievements may be in computing, biotechnology or other modern fields. Heraldry's long tradition of puns and symbolic meanings usually allows a way of doing so without having to grant a shield with, say, hard drives or lab coats on it.

A final comment should be made about the involvement of the College with the field of orders, medals and decorations. The College's close involvement with orders of chivalry since their origins, and its expertise in design, has led it to be responsible for the design of a significant proportion of British insignia through the ages. The most prominent medal designer at the College today is Timothy Noad, a herald-painter who designed the Golden Jubilee, Diamond Jubilee and Operational Service Medals (as well as many coins for the Royal Mint). Another area where heraldry and decorations interact is the custom (seen in England since knights of the Garter in the fourteenth century) that insignia worn by a recipient can also be displayed from their coat of arms. This is naturally an extremely common practice, due to how many people with arms get honoured, and how many honourees get granted arms, but a particularly interesting example are the arms of Sir Roden Cutler VC AK KCMG KCVO CBE, Governor of New South Wales, whose arms (*illustrated*) featured not only those five decorations hanging pendant, but also sit upon the cross of the Order of St John and within the circlets of the Orders of Australia and St Michael & St George. Such a distinguished range of decorations are unlikely to ever be seen combined again, in heraldry or elsewhere.

In closing, Cutler's citation for the Victoria Cross (*London Gazette*, 25 November 1941) is reproduced here:

“The College's close involvement with orders of chivalry since their origins, and its expertise in design, has led it to be responsible for the design of a significant proportion of British insignia through the ages”

War Office, 28 November 1941

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the VICTORIA CROSS to the under-mentioned:—

Lieutenant Arthur Roden Cutler (NX.12378), Australian Military Forces.

For most conspicuous and sustained gallantry during the Syrian Campaign and for outstanding bravery during the bitter fighting at Merdjayoun when this artillery officer became a byword amongst the forward troops with whom he worked.

At Merdjayoun on the 19 June 1941 our infantry attack was checked after suffering heavy casualties from an enemy counter attack with tanks. Enemy machine gun fire swept the ground but Lieutenant Cutler with another artillery officer and a small party pushed on ahead of the infantry and established an outpost in a house. The telephone

The College of Arms





The Court of Chivalry

line was cut and he went out and mended this line under machine gun fire and returned to the house, from which enemy posts and a battery were successfully engaged.

The enemy then attacked this outpost with infantry and tanks, killing the Bren gunner and mortally wounding the other officer. Lieutenant Cutler and another manned the anti-tank rifle and Bren gun and fought back driving the enemy infantry away. The tanks continued the attack, but under constant fire from the anti-tank rifle and Bren gun eventually withdrew. Lieutenant Cutler then personally supervised the evacuation of the wounded members of his party. Undaunted he pressed for a further advance. He had been ordered to establish an outpost from which he could register the only road by which the enemy transport could enter the town. With a small party of volunteers he pressed on until finally with one other he succeeded in establishing an outpost right in the town, which was occupied by the Foreign Legion, despite enemy machine gun fire which prevented our infantry from advancing.

At this time Lieutenant Cutler knew the enemy were massing on his left for a counter attack and that he was in danger of being cut off. Nevertheless he carried out his task of registering the battery on the road and engaging enemy posts. The enemy

counter attacked with infantry and tanks and he was cut off. He was forced to go to ground, but after dark succeeded in making his way through the enemy lines. His work in registering the only road by which enemy transport could enter the town was of vital importance and a big factor in the enemy's subsequent retreat.

On the night of 23–24 June he was in charge of a 25-pounder sent forward into our forward defended localities to silence an enemy anti-tank gun and post which had held up our attack. This he did and next morning the recapture of Merdjayoun was completed.

Later at Damour on 6 July when our forward infantry were pinned to the ground by heavy hostile machine gun fire Lieutenant Cutler, regardless of all danger, went to bring a line to his outpost when he was seriously wounded. Twenty-six hours elapsed before it was possible to rescue this officer, whose wound by this time had become septic necessitating the amputation of his leg.

Throughout the Campaign this officer's courage was unparalleled and his work was a big factor in the recapture of Merdjayoun.

Proof, if it were needed, that fascinating medallic stories can be found in rather unusual ways!



N. Herbert Sculpsit 1688.

*Cernitis? hic vir hic est, Spolijs Orientis onustus,
Romanas et opes, Argolicasque vehens
Tot Collecta, mori cur non monimenta vetabunt
Tot Collecta vetat, qui monimenta mori?*

De la Monnoye



John Melville-Jones

THE INDESTRUCTIBILITY OF ANCIENT GOLD

The allure of gold comes in the first place from the beauty of its colour, its relative rarity which makes it more valuable, and its malleability, which makes it perfect for making articles of adornment, and some kinds of gentle use. But it has another quality which has always endeared it to mankind, and ensured its value: its imperishable nature. It cannot be destroyed by fire, by rust or by any other form of corrosion. In theory any gold that you see now might have a long history behind it. I have collected some little stories which have something in common, to make you think about where gold might find itself in the course of its immortal life.

I personally own little gold in any form. Most of what I own forms a thin layer over some of my replacement teeth. I have little doubt that in reality the gold that my dentist uses was probably mined in Western Australia not too long before it was refined to a sufficient degree to be used for this purpose.

But still, it is possible to fantasise. I once owned a child's book, *The Tale of a Penny*, which described the adventures of an imaginary penny after it was minted, and then passed from hand to hand, and was lost and found again, and then continued circulating.

If only coins, particularly gold ones, could tell us where they have been! A piece of gold that is in existence today might have been mined, refined, and minted into coins at any time in the past, and might have passed through many hands. It might have been minted once upon a time for King Croesus of Lydia, or his Persian successors, then reminted and paid to one of Alexander the Great's soldiers at the conclusion of his period of service, seized as booty from the Gauls by Julius Caesar, paid to a Byzantine archbishop as part of his salary, or to the mistress of a medieval Pope as

a reward for good performance or to support her offspring; it may then have become a wedding ring, or later, after being melted down again, stored by a bank as backing for paper money, or held by a Middle Eastern nation in exchange for oil. The possibilities are endless, and some of them are less pleasant than others.

Here are three gruesome stories, in chronological order, to show by what routes gold may travel in its passage from the ancient to the modern world, and perhaps into your hands. First, in 91 BC the Roman government sent an ambassador to the recently acquired province of Asia (now called Asia Minor, and a part of Turkey) to deal with a local king, Mithradates VI, who was proving troublesome. The embassy was not a success, and a war broke out. Within two years of his sailing to Asia the ambassador, Manius Aquillius, had been captured by Mithradates. We are told that he was executed by a novel method, by having molten gold poured down his throat. Where is this gold now? It may still exist, even if it was at first buried with Aquillius. Mithradates certainly minted gold coins, so perhaps the metal which is contained in some of those that exist in modern collections had previously been used for this murderous purpose.

Here is another unpleasant story. The Jewish author Josephus wrote a book called *The Jewish War*, which included an account of the siege and destruction of Jerusalem by the future Roman emperor Titus in AD 70. Josephus (5.13.4) tells us that some of the defeated Jews, who had escaped from the city, swallowed their stores of gold coins before leaving it, knowing that they would probably be searched as soon as they were picked up by the forces of the besiegers. But this ruse was discovered when one of them was seen to be rummaging through the product of his defaecations, and when it was realised that he

“it was at first buried with Aquillius. Mithradates certainly minted gold coins, so perhaps the metal which is contained in some of those that exist in modern collections had previously been used for this murderous purpose”

had salvaged some gold coins in this way, all the refugees were disembowelled and their internal organs investigated by the Arabian and Syrian troops who were assisting the Romans. The coins that these refugees were using as a way of storing the maximum value in the smallest space might have been gold coins of the later Hellenistic Greek rulers of the area, although they were more probably Roman gold coins. Again, modern collectors may wonder whether any ancient gold coins of this period that they possess may have travelled along this road before coming into their hands.

Finally, a more modern story. In 1875 Jean Foy Vaillant, a French doctor who was also a scholar of literature and history, was sent to travel in Italy, Sicily and Greece by Colbert, the chief minister of the king of France, with instructions to acquire coins which would be suitable for the king's coin cabinet. As he was sailing back from Greece, his ship was pursued by pirates. Fearing that they would be caught, the loyal servant of the king selected the twenty-one gold coins that he had acquired at that stage in his travels, and swallowed them. The precaution was unnecessary, because a favourable shift of wind enabled his ship to outdistance the pirates, and he was able to recover his treasures later, when nature took its course. It is possible that some of the ancient Greek or Roman gold coins in the Cabinet des Médailles in Paris for which a later or different provenance cannot be proved arrived there after this rite of passage.

If coins could only tell us where they have been! And what is the history of the gold in your wedding ring?



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WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

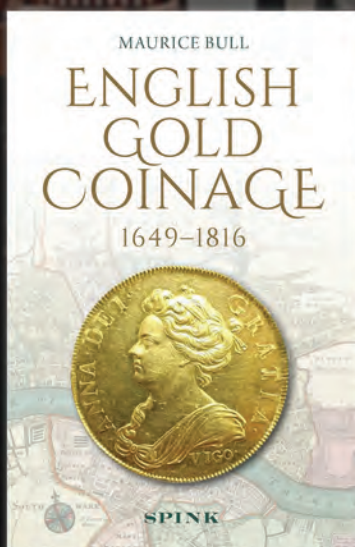
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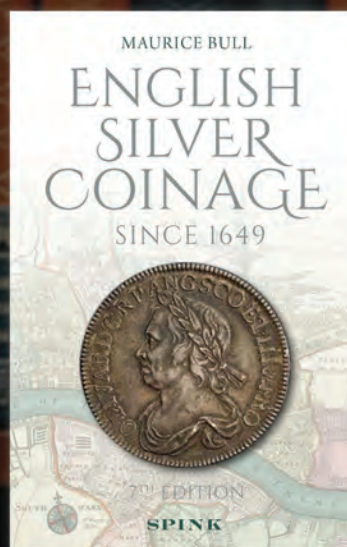
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An early Lizars proof of the £1 note



Proof reverse by Lizars depicting Castle Rushen



Jonathan Callaway

THE BANK OF MONA: THE STORY OF A SCOTTISH BANK ON THE ISLE OF MAN

A part from their London offices and a few branches in northern England, Scottish banks did not seek to expand beyond their domestic market until the 1960s and the start of the oil boom. There was in fact an informal agreement with the English banks not to trespass on each other's turf and the English banks were careful to police this.

One Scottish bank, however, took a different approach to expansion outside its homeland. This was the ill-fated City of Glasgow Bank who decided to head across the Irish Sea to the Isle of Man. It is not entirely clear what prompted them, and them alone, to do this. There were close trading links between the Glasgow area and the Isle of Man but that was also true of many other places in England and the north of Ireland.

“The new bank's arrival was greeted positively by the local business community as it was seen to be bringing modern big city branch banking practices to the island for the first time.”

The City of Glasgow Bank was founded in 1839 as a “co-partnery” under Scottish law, the equivalent of a joint stock bank, with a paid-up capital of £656,250 subscribed by 779 partners. When it failed in October 1878 many of its 1,819 shareholders were bankrupted due to the unlimited nature of their liability. All other creditors had to be paid off wholly at their expense. None of this affected people on the Isle of Man, as our present story relates, though the

bank's local operations obviously had to close.

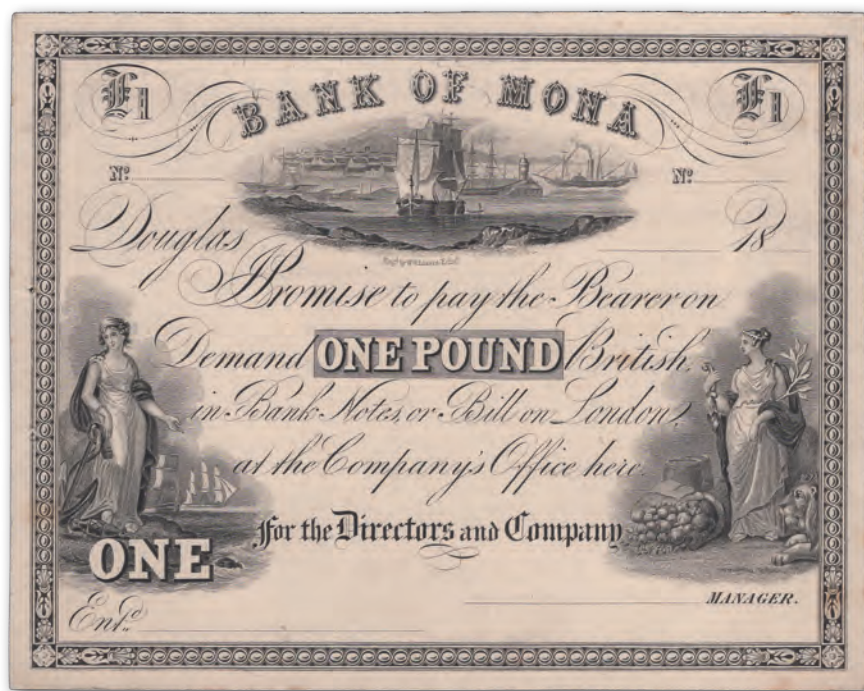
A possible motive for the City of Glasgow Bank to venture across the Irish Sea may have been the closure of the Isle of Mann [*sic*] Commercial Banking Company in 1848 which left a gap in the local market as there was only one other local bank at the time, the soon-to-fail Holmes' Bank, trading as the Douglas & Isle of Man Bank.

The Bank of Mona Opens Its Doors

Whatever the reason, the bank established a branch in Douglas, the island's capital, in 1849 just ten years after opening its doors in Glasgow. They chose the trading name Bank of Mona for this branch, inspired no doubt by the island's Roman name. In 1858, they purchased the remaining assets of the defunct Commercial Banking Company for the sum of £884 14s 6d.

Despite the different trading name the branch was not separately incorporated. Importantly, however, notes issued by the bank in the Isle of Man were subject to the Bankers' Notes Act passed by the Tynwald, the island's parliament, in 1817. This law required all notes to be backed by securities lodged with or pledged to the parliament and it may have been this which persuaded the bank to state on its notes “*Incorporated by Act of Tynwald*”.

The new bank's arrival was greeted positively by the local business community as it was seen to be bringing modern big city branch banking practices to the island for the first time. Soon, further branches were opened, in Castletown, Ramsay and Peel. The bank achieved its status and reputation despite the increasingly questionable practices of its parent and was



Unadopted proof also by Lizars

described by Connery Chappell in his history of Dumbell's Bank as having "some very important citizens behind it" and being "solidly respectable".

The bank quickly established itself in its new home and in 1855 built a fine head office on Prospect Hill in Douglas. This beautiful Victorian building was designed by local architect John Robinson in "wedding cake" style and still stands, having been acquired by the Isle of Man Government in 1879. The building was originally painted red but has long been repainted in white. A renovation in 2004 considered reverting to red but public opinion preferred the white so no changes were made.

Pilcher Ralfe, in his article on Manx banking in the *Scottish Bankers Magazine* in 1917 (reprinted in his history of the Isle of Man Bank *Sixty Years of Banking*), expressed the view that "this was the first entrance of a large Bank on modern lines, and although the City of Glasgow Bank was an unfortunate example of a Scottish institution insular banking undoubtedly owes to its initiative much of the superior system, energy, and stability of the later financial concerns, whose methods have shown a distinctly Scottish, rather than English, character. Although its business was narrowed by the establishment of strong native Banks, it continued to the end to be the Bank of the Manx Government, and of many of the official and proprietary class" "The insular branch was honourably and efficiently managed, and the Isle of Man, as it had no share in the causes of its downfall,

suffered only some slight temporary inconvenience from its stoppage, as there were no shareholders resident, and the depositors were soon paid in full".

Despite all the positive comment, the Bank of Mona's own brief history was not unchequered. In 1857 it had to close its doors after a panic precipitated by the collapse of the Glasgow-based Western Bank of Scotland affected its parent. This closure lasted only a month and the bank was able to reopen its doors and continue much as before. The bank's first local competitor was the private partnership of Holmes' Bank which had failed in 1853 but had immediately been replaced by Dumbell, Son & Howard, also a private partnership, trading as the Douglas & Isle of Man Bank. This bank too was forced by the same panic to close, and stayed closed for several months, a fact which prompted a campaign by local businessmen to establish a well-capitalised local bank to act as a flag bearer for the local economy. It took until 1865 for the Isle of Man Banking Company Limited to get off the ground but once in operation it provided stiff competition to the two incumbents.

Competition on the Island

Although the arrival of the Bank of Mona had been welcomed, an almost inevitable rivalry developed with Dumbell's Bank who had taken over Holmes' trading name of the Douglas & Isle of Man Bank. This bank was dominated by the personality of its senior partner George Wil-

Gilmour & Dean produced the later notes - this rare issued example is from 1874



liam Dumbell, an advocate (lawyer) described by Chappell as “*small, self-opinionated and irascible; a man of vision and cunning; a saint or a sinner, according to view*”. He was a descendent of a Lancashire merchant and businessman, one of whose sons had briefly been a partner in the Stockport Bank that had failed in 1793, bankrupting him as well as fellow partners. This proved eventually to be inauspicious as Dumbell’s Bank itself failed in 1900. The rivalry became intense thanks to the determination of Dumbell to overtake the Bank of Mona as the premier bank on the island.

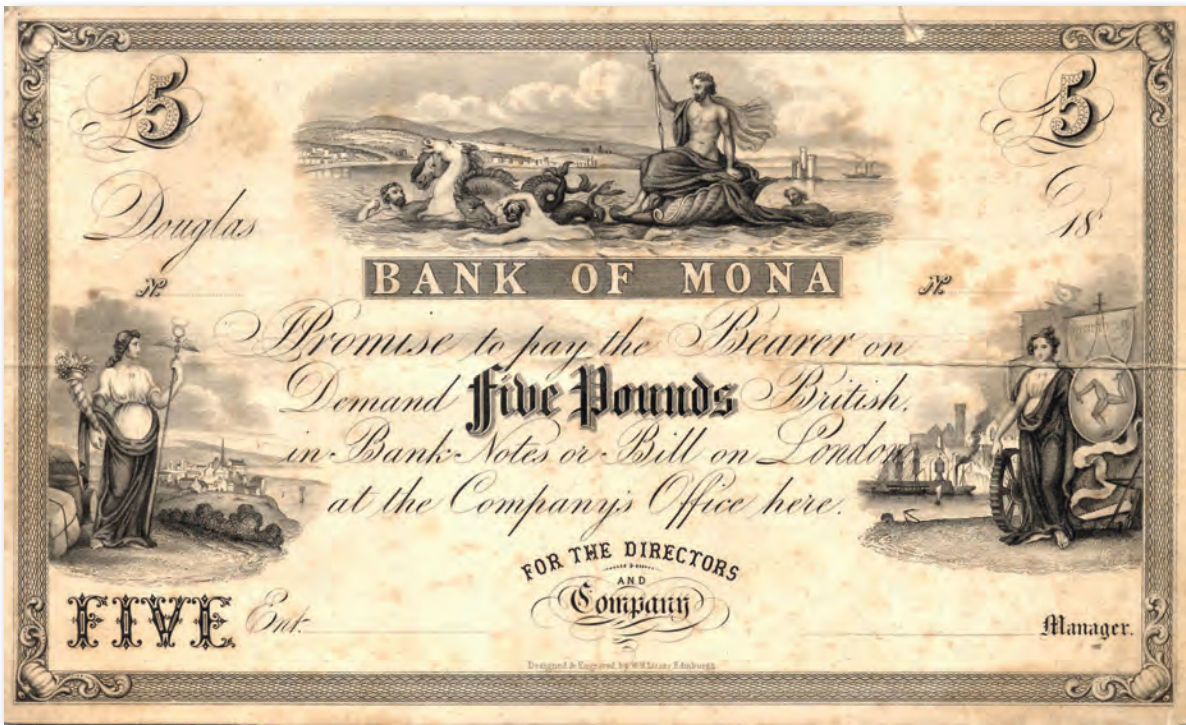
“In April 1878 there was a sensational robbery attempt on the Bank of Mona, by their Chief Cashier Andrew William Gray”

In 1855 the Bank of Mona’s licence limit for note issuance was set at £42,343, with some £26,940 actually in circulation, compared to Dumbell’s £15,000 and £8,000 respectively. In 1859 the comparative circulation figures were £32,000 and £9,400. Dumbell’s only briefly overtook their rivals, in 1877, when they managed to increase their notes in circulation to £25,600 aided in part by Great Laxey Mines, a major employer, agreeing to pay its workers in Dumbell’s notes.

Meanwhile the two rivals had fought bitterly for the business of the island’s premier enterprise, the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company. The directors had resolved to open an account at the Bank of Mona but Dumbell marshalled opposition to this. The company’s business ended up being shared between the two, with Dumbell’s getting the larger share, at least in 1858, when £1,667 of its reserves were placed with Dumbell’s and the lesser sum of £1,250 with the Bank of Mona.

The founding of the Isle of Man Banking Company had been opposed by both the Bank of Mona and Dumbell’s but this only delayed its arrival. When it did open its doors in November 1865, it not only set up branches in Castletown, Ramsey and Peel to challenge the Bank of Mona on all fronts, it even had the temerity to poach one of their leading members of staff, their Accountant John James Karran, who had also worked for the Isle of Mann Commercial Bank earlier in his career.

In 1875 the rivalry with Dumbell’s took a new turn. The Bank of Mona sued Dumbell’s for seeking to pay cheques they had presented in “light” gold, ie coin which did not weigh correctly, or had been clipped. The case turned on whether the coins had originated at the Bank of Mona itself, as bags of gold apparently circulated between the banks to help settle mutual obligations. Dumbell’s lost and had to make good the three relevant shortfalls totalling £286.



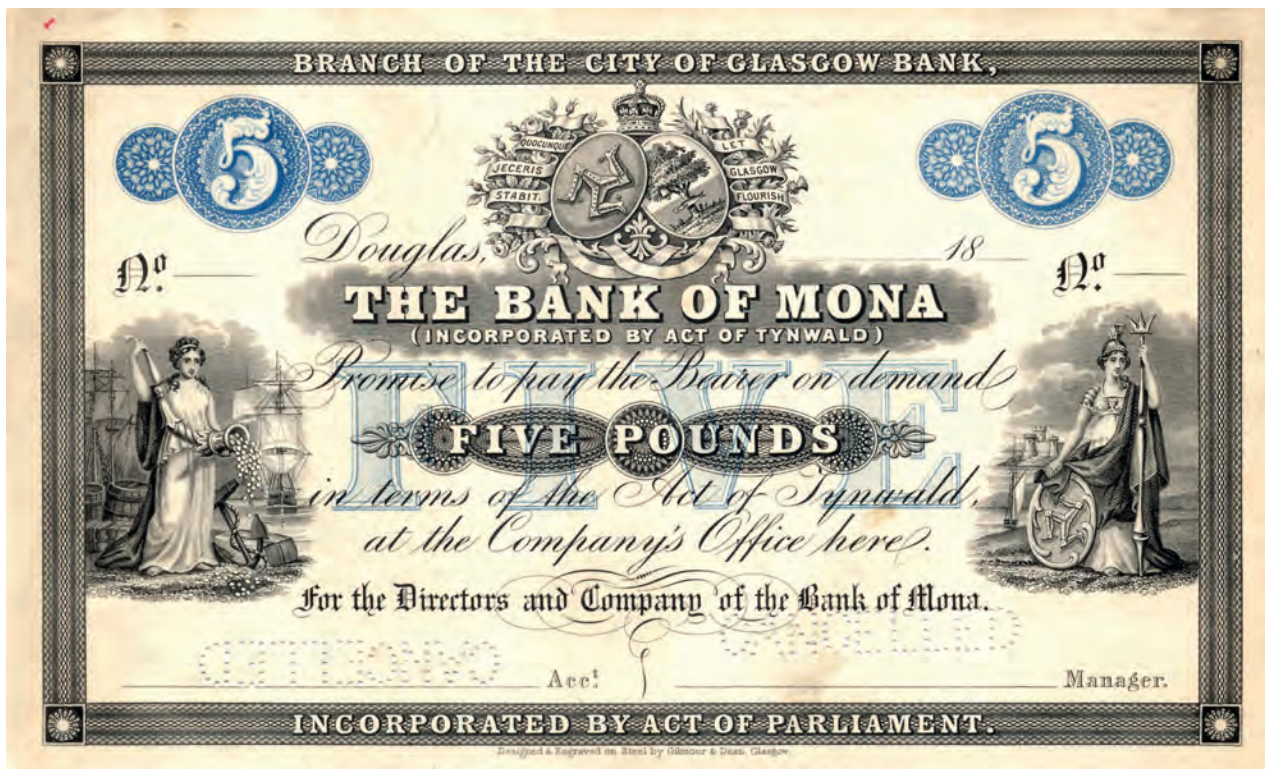
(Top) Lizars also prepared a £5 note - not seen in issued form
(Bottom) A close up of Neptune and his sea horses on the £5 note

A Troublesome Cashier

In April 1878 there was a sensational robbery attempt on the Bank of Mona, by their Chief Cashier Andrew William Gray. He tried to rob the bank of £8,873 in gold, acting with two accomplices. It was evidently an act of desperation as he had no real chance of leaving the island with the gold, and he turned out to have run up significant debts in a number of ill-fated business ventures. He had been threatened with dismissal by his concerned manager John K Greig and this had forced him into his doomed effort. He got ten years imprisonment, taking into account an attempted fraud of a further £3,000.

The Dramatic Failure of the City of Glasgow Bank

By the late 1870s the City of Glasgow Bank had got into serious difficulties which were deliberately concealed from the public by the publication of misleading balance sheets and by the bank's purchase of its own shares in order to support the market price. The bank had massively over-lent and some of the non-performing loans were fraudulently disguised in the balance sheet as government stock. Worse, it turned out that about 50% of its bloated loan book was to just three borrowers and the position was exacerbated by unwise investments in US railroad and



*Gilmour & Dean outdid
Lizars with this magnificent
proof £5 note*

mining stocks and land, sheep farms and wool in Australia and New Zealand.

In its final published accounts dated 5th June 1878 the directors had reported that business was flourishing, with deposits of over £8mn, capital, reserves and undistributed profits totalling £1.6mn and profits of £140,095. As a result a dividend of 12 per cent had been declared and paid. Its collapse less than four months later on 2nd October 1878 came as a huge shock and was the largest in Scottish banking history until very recent times. It had wide-reaching effects on the Scottish economy and particularly on the bank's shareholders.

Immediately before suspension each share of £100 nominal had been quoted at £240. The shares became worthless overnight of course, and what was far worse for shareholders and even trustees of trusts holding shares was that they were all personally liable in full for their share of the total deficit of £5,190,983 11s 3d. The first call on shareholders was £500 per share. This was enough to bankrupt 599 of them but the final call on those left was a devastating £2,250 per share, after which only 254 of 1,819 shareholders remained solvent (the total call was an estimated 4% of Scotland's GDP in 1878). Even those who had held shares and sold them up to a year previously remained

liable. And every shareholder's liability was unlimited to the extent of their personal fortune (in the phrase of the time, down to *'the last acre and sixpence'*). Depositors on the other hand got all their money back and holders of the bank's notes found that they were quickly accepted by other banks in a successful effort to maintain full confidence in the banking system.

After an avidly followed and widely reported trial in January 1879 the seven directors were all found guilty, two of falsifying and fabricating the balance sheets of the bank for which they received eighteen months imprisonment, and five of uttering and publishing the balance sheets knowing them to be false, for which they received eight months.

The Bank of Mona Closes Its Doors

As soon as the City of Glasgow Bank collapsed, the Bank of Mona had to close its doors but the four Isle of Man branches had remained solvent throughout. All depositors and note holders were quickly repaid in full, no doubt in part thanks to the local requirement to provide securities to cover note issues. Evidently, too, the bank's loan book was good enough to enable funds lent locally to be recovered in full. There were no shareholders of the City of Glasgow Bank on the island so no islanders suffered their fate.

“Dumbell’s Bank failed in February 1900 with devastating consequences for the island’s economy, in much the same way as the City of Glasgow Bank had brought economic chaos and ruin to the West of Scotland some 22 years earlier.”



Final Act

The final act in this story concerns the manager of the Bank of Mona’s Ramsey branch, Alexander Bruce. After the bank’s closure he was hired by Dumbell’s Bank as their General Manager. His career had started as an apprentice in the City of Glasgow Bank and he was promoted and transferred to the Isle of Man to the position he filled at the time of the bank’s closure. He was a well-liked and seemingly impressive individual who went on to become Chairman of the Isle of Man Tramways Company, the Town Treasurer of Douglas and a JP amongst other appointments.

Unfortunately for Dumbell’s he also turned out to be rather too entrepreneurial for the banking business. Bank reserves were invested in speculative property developments and accounts began to be falsified to conceal losses, for example counting stocks of unissued notes as part of cash in hand. Dumbell’s Bank failed in February

1900 with devastating consequences for the island’s economy, in much the same way as the City of Glasgow Bank had brought economic chaos and ruin to the West of Scotland some 22 years earlier. Bruce died in July 1900 from heart disease, with only the grave preventing him from serving a long prison sentence.

This article is a much revised and extended version of one that appeared in Coin News in September 2012.

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The former Bank of Mona building now owned by the Manx Government (image courtesy Wikicommons)

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2020

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GREAT FIRE MONUMENT

MODERN MAN 2020
"ONLINE AUCTIONS"





Guillermo Ariete

THE MAKING OF THE COVID-19 COVER

To create the finished cover painting the first step is to sketch the rough image I want to use. Once I am happy with the composition I then clean up the image and detail it a bit more to use as a guide for the final painting. I digitally draw and paint using Photoshop and a tool called blending brushes – these brushes behave like real ones, and the colours react the same as if they were real paint. This technique gives me the freedom to quickly change an element and fix any mistake in a blink of an eye, plus the possibility of editing colours and tones.

When I was commissioned to create the cover for the Insider Spring 2020 issue the idea was to travel back in time to 1666, the year of the Black Plague in London and the year that

Spink was founded. We wanted to show the connection between that event and the new plague, Covid-19.

The concept was clear: 1666 versus 2020. I did some research and found that one of the most striking symbols of the Black Plague was the doctors. Their creature-like masks are very representative of that time and this image, beside a modern man wearing the now very common surgical mask, was the way to go.

I wanted to go a bit further and use another event of that time, the Great Fire of London, for the background of the plague doctor character, and for the background of the modern man the monument to the Great Fire of London as a reminder of how we overcame those dark times.

To wrap everything up and connect both images, showing the relationship between the two events and how the spirit of the auction house has survived centuries and epidemics, I used the iconic John Spink 1657 coin, which is held by the 1666 plague doctor on the left, and is pictured on the screen of the modern man's phone on the right.

“The idea was to travel back in time to 1666, the year of the Black Plague in London and the year that Spink was founded. We wanted to show the connection between that event and the new plague, Covid-19”

Initial Sketch



Final Drawing



Painting Process



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Nik von Uexkull

BEHIND THE SCENES ON AUCTION DAY – DURING LOCKDOWN

Returning from the Big Apple following a frenetic fortnight of shipping, consignment collections and visiting the dinosaurs at the Natural Museum of History I arrive back at London Heathrow blissfully unaware of what is to come. Ordering a cappuccino before boarding the Piccadilly Line as passengers mingle outside Terminal 4 it seems unthinkable that in a fortnight's time this will not be possible. Back at Spink HQ Dora and Benni are preparing as normal for the Spring Coins auction but as the days fall by the wayside restaurants and shops disappear behind shutters, I finish my last gym session in semi-darkness and smile sadly as I take the final spoonful of my Chilli Chicken Udon. As lockdown looms I stroll through a deserted St Pancras passing the occasional confused tourist and empty Eurostar terminal. The day is crisp, watery sunshine filtering down onto the Thames as the South Bank sits perfectly calm and bereft of activity. I am reminded of the opening scene to 28 Days Later and wonder when cinemas will open their doors again. As the news darkens and fear sets in it appears for a moment as if all hope and reason is lost. New York shimmers, a distant memory to cherish of another time and place.

Thundering under the streets of London for the final time I take one last look at Tottenham Court Road station and head on through the grey to Spink Towers, glancing upward fondly at the billowing purple flag. Dora is already tapping away, humming along to a distant song playing in the post room. I flick on my computer and watch the rush of emails flood in from names familiar and new; Benni arrives with her usual flourish, today a dazzling shade of bubblegum pink, and in the background I hear John arguing with FedEx. Perhaps life can still be normal after all. Greg whirls in dressed resplendently in his Sunday best, waxing lyrical about the Charles

I Triple Unite coming up, and as he does so the phone is ringing, the Spink Live registrants pass the 200 mark and the anticipation begins to build. As a day of heavy drama unfolds Spink Live explodes into life from the very first lot, registrants ticking over furiously past the 700 mark. Our maestro-in-chief Greg acts as conductor, his hammer whooshing through the air, hitting the rostrum with aplomb. Casting a spell over bidders far and wide he brings the hammer down long after darkness has fallen. Marveling at the results and the overwhelmingly positive response from bidders across the globe, we fall back in stunned silence taking it all in for a moment - amidst the gloom and panic a torch flickering into flame, collective within all of us here in Bloomsbury and all of you who joined us on this historic and unforgettable day in not just the life of Spink, but of everyone who took part in today's proceedings.

Amid the flurries of emails and calls there are many with words of support, sharing experiences of lockdown and the importance of keeping in touch no matter how far afield you may be. It is with a heavy heart that I register I will not be sharing a couple of ales at the Queens Larder with a good friend this year, but we begin to make plans for 2021 and in the meantime talk coins and cricket.

It seems unfathomable that a year has passed since the eventful April World Banknotes auction of 2019 and stranger still that it will take place in an empty room. Bar keeps us on our toes calling Benni in a panic as the audio is not working on his computer at home - it turns out his audio is switched off. Despite the mayhem last April we look on through the glass at the sandwich-less table and silent auction room, remembering the pizza party of twelve months past with its laughter and jovial camaraderie. I will say, however, that

the beetroot salad I suffered through many a previous post-auction has been laid to rest in a small patch of soil in the Spink Garden.

Easter Weekend is spent queueing for hours on end in Supermarket car parks. As a girl in front skips to pass the time I take a look at the line in front of me and marvel at the orderly fashion in which the British queue. As philately enters the arena the postman forgets not only to ring twice but not at all, so with three bags of mail Dora and I head out into the ghostly streets of Bloomsbury in search of a drop-off centre. Wandering into the Brunswick Centre I blink twice, wondering if my eyes deceive me - a line snakes out of Waitrose so long I can scarcely believe it. Dora suggests Vietnamese for lunch, trawling through Deliveroo for places that are open - it arrives an hour later cold, soggy and lost in a flavour vacuum.

Embarking upon yet another one-thousand plus lot Medal auction, Victor settles in the Spink Live hotseat once again as our wonderful Spink New York colleague Sam awakens in the small hours over in North Carolina to clerk. As the bidders top 800 I make the somewhat questionable decision of ordering burgers and fries for lunch. Feeling like a ten-ton truck I struggle on to the close of play, seeing off Marcus around 7pm. "Pizza?" Dora suggests. "Dough balls?" Benni adds. "Chicken Wings?" Dora chips in. Feeling like this is a bad idea I shrug my shoulders. At around 9.30 they roll me out of the building into a taxi.

In an effort to stave off rotundity Dora suggests a post-work training regime in the auction room. Quite why I choose a Seekh Kebab and Pitta for lunch is anyone's guess but that I do, and the 45 minutes of high intensity training that follow are neither graceful nor athletic, but Dora is forgiving and holds out a supporting arm. We reach the end of the week with ten boxes of lots to send, and an avalanche of medal buyers. With Pearl Jam in the background the four of us stand at the post bench with game faces on and packing materials at the ready - with only a brief pause for sustenance we reach our record of 160 parcels dispatched in one day and head into the weekend paper cut and bruised but unbroken.

“it is easy to forget that every generation has contested with tremendous suffering and sacrifice, and it is testament to the human spirit that we have endured and found solace in each other.”

As the Toy Money e-auction whizzes into view so does a Latino flavor, with a spot of Zumba entering the hallowed walls of Spink. Dancing the evening away Benni finds great hilarity in my moves but as I have said many times before my hips don't lie. In all seriousness though, it is with great fondness that I see these wonderful people, whether it be lunching in the garden, picking each other up when the load becomes too much or simply making each other smile. Moments of levity seem so absent nowadays that laughter is balm to a wounded soul. Such moments can be as simple as Greg lying prostrate on the showroom floor following a particularly vigorous cardio blast, Dora's penguin walk or Victor discovering English sarcasm.

With 27 auctions ticked off we breathe out and put the shorts and t-shirts back in the cupboard. It is time to open our doors once again and with work beginning on the refurbishment of this grand old building, it truly is a new dawn.

In a year that has seen wildfires rage through Australia, devastation in the Middle East and a global pandemic that has rocked the very foundations of the world we knew, it is easy to forget that every generation has contested with tremendous suffering and sacrifice, and it is testament to the human spirit that we have endured and found solace in each other.

The future may be uncertain but as the previous eight months have shown, together we are resilient and new pathways can be forged. We look forward to the adventures ahead and seeing you all back at 69 Southampton Row - stay safe, and thank you for all your wonderful support!

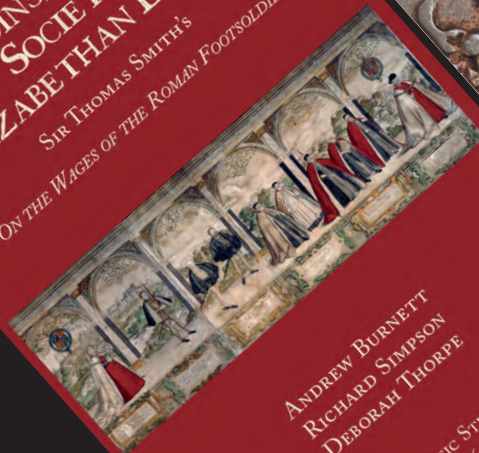
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No. 36

LONDON NEWS

CAPTAIN SIR TOM MOORE'S MEDALS REMOUNTED BY SPINK

As many people will be aware, Captain Sir Thomas Moore's Defence Medal was recently re-presented to him after being lost many years ago; up until a short time ago he had to wear it separately above the other campaign medals for his Second World War service. That is, until Spink's Medal Services Department stepped in to help.

Medal Specialist Robert Wilde-Evans arranged for Sir Tom's medals to be re-mounted, adding the Defence Medal in its correct position between the Burma Star and War Medal. Sharp-eyed readers may also notice the style of mounting has been changed, from Ordinary to Court; this style is as worn by soldiers of the Yorkshire Regiment, the present day descendants of Sir Tom's former unit the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Additionally, we re-mounted his miniature medals – not only to add a new Defence Medal but also the badge of a Knight Bachelor; Sir Tom was invested with his Knight's insignia during a private audience with HM The Queen at Windsor Castle on 18th July 2020. We were also asked to provide an Undress ribbon bar for occasions on which he may not wish to wear his full size group.

Robert was recently invited to visit Sir Tom and his family to officially hand over his newly refurbished medals; he was delighted with the result! Robert comments, "It has certainly been a great honour, privilege and indeed pleasure to assist Sir Tom with his medals; his full and true entitlement can now be worn with pride and this occasion has been a poignant reminder of bravery and fortitude in troubled times."





LONDON NEWS

MEDAL DEPARTMENT SALE ROUNDUP

July 2020

Our second Auction of 2020 was held on 29th and 30th July in London, with a slightly amended title to include two exceptional Space Exploration Wristwatches worn by Soviet Cosmonauts – both of which sold at pleasing prices. The overall returns showed 99% of Lots sold and interest running high, with the majority of lots selling above their estimates.

The Sale began with a fine section of awards for the Peninsular and Napoleonic Wars, a section which was well supported as ever. A highlight was perhaps the Naval General Service Medal with clasps for St Vincent and the Nile (Lot 5) awarded to Able Seaman William Marshall, Royal Navy, whose Medal soared beyond its estimate to be knocked down at £5,000 (£6,200 including BP). Another notable result was the hammer price of £2,700 (£3,350) for the General Service Medal with clasp for Bomb & Mine Clearance 1945-49 awarded to Flight Lieutenant AP Watt, Royal Air Force (Lot 207) – the first such award to an Officer of the Royal Air Force seen by the Department. Similar results followed in a special section dedicated to the Battle of Barrosa, the standout result being the single clasped awarded to Lieutenant RL Haydon, 28th Foot, who was latterly wounded in the thigh at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815 (Lot 259) which achieved £5,800 (£7,192 including BP) and nearly three times its estimate. Campaign Groups and Pairs attracted good attention before an interesting offering of Lifesaving Awards.



Lot 207



Lot 259



Marcus Budgen



Lot 538





Lot 5



Lot 611



The Gallantry section began with the Honours and Awards of Captain Sir AD Cochrane, Royal Navy, a gallant submarine CO who won his DSO in the Sea of Marmora and a Bar for his command of the legendary breakout from the Yozdad Camp in Turkey – a feat later published as *Four-Fifty Miles to Freedom*. A prominent post-war politician, Cochrane went on to become Governor of Burma and earned a GCMG and KSCI to boot. His awards were sold as Lots 538-543 and totalled £28,230 (£35,005 including BP), with his Medals set to go on display at a National Museum in the near future.

The section continued in the same fine style with other strong results for Flying Gallantry, with the excessively rare MC and Bar awarded to Air Chief Marshal Sir Claude Pelly (Lot 588) bringing £10,500 (£13,020 including BP) and Group Captain A Donaldson's DSO, DFC & Bar, AFC group of ten achieving £15,000 (£18,600 including BP). The first day was closed off with Part II of an impressive array of Modern Campaign Awards, my personal highlight

being the awards of 'The Taliban Terminator' – Sergeant S Hurst, Parachute Regiment (Lot 611), a legendary sniper who notched up at least 39 'kills'. The pre-Sale estimate of £800-1,000 was swept aside and I finally brought the hammer down at £6,250 (£7,750 including BP).

Day two was mainly focused around World Orders, Decorations and Medals – this extended section was also well supported as you might expect, with international bidders securing the majority of items on offer. The sections of Ethiopia and Spain saw particularly lively bidding and prices were very strong throughout the day.

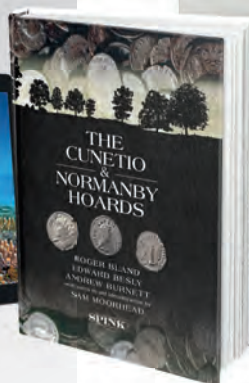
It was a pleasure to be able to welcome clients back to 69 Southampton Row under the new UK Government Guidelines for both the viewing and during the Auction itself. At present we are preparing for our November Auction so please do not hesitate to make contact if I can pay you a visit or advise on any aspect of your collection, be it new additions you would like to make or valuations for insurance or future Sale at Auction.

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HONG KONG NEWS

After successful May and July auctions, our August auction (due to start shortly after the time of writing) is one of the best auctions in recent years, with many rarities and high quality items, reflecting the confidence of local collectors in this market.

The response to consigning for this auction and the sheer volume of items was so great such that many items could not be listed; to this end, we have decided to hold an extra e-auction to begin in mid-October and finish on 1st November.

The highlights are as below:

People's Bank of China, 2nd series renminbi, 1953 3 Yuan, serial number X I VI 9617641, 'Seagull' watermark, (Pick 868), PMG 35 Choice Very Fine (Minor Restoration).

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, \$100, 15.12.1947, serial number Y/M 389611, dark green and brown on multicoloured under print, Britannia seated at centre holding a trident and shield with a lion, reverse green, Supreme Court at right, (Pick 57c), about very fine.

People's Bank of China, 2nd series renminbi, 1953, 10 Yuan, serial number I II III 0149480, black and pale orange, peasant couple at centre, watermark of Chinese national emblem at right, reverse similar colours, national emblem at upper centre, (Pick 870), PMG 30 Very Fine (Minor Restoration).

Hong Kong, silver \$1, 1868, Victoria at obverse, PCGS XF45.

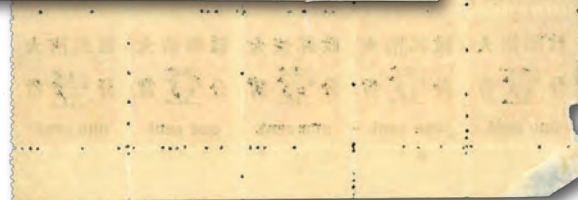
The consignment deadline is 2nd October, and we welcome any further consignments. For any queries regarding the sale, please contact Kelvin Cheung, kcheung@spink.com.

The following Lots sold at very good prices in the past few months, with all sales conducted behind closed doors.





May's numismatic auction saw Lots 577, 1959 and 1960 achieve hammer prices of HK\$ 580,000, HK\$ 500,000 and HK\$20,000 respectively



July's stamp sale also achieved excellent results for Lot 104A (complete sheet of red revenue) with a hammer price of HK\$ 190,000 and Lot 2288 (panoramic photo /Canton & Shamin) in sale 20058 a hammer price of HK\$ 80,000.

Lastly, look out for the star Lot in our Fine Whisky & Rum online-only auction, a Macallan 60-year-old whisky from the Lalique Six Pillars Collection 限量 400支, bottled in 2011 (700ml) with an estimate of HK\$600,000 – results were not available at the time of going to press, but we expect to see it achieving record results.

Further details of all our Autumn sales will be available on the Spink website over the next few weeks – some dates are still to be confirmed but will include our October stamp and numismatic CSS online-only auction and December's Whisky e-auction.



INSIDER TRAVEL: “FESTIVAL OF COLOUR” THE HOLI FESTIVAL



This ancient Hindu Festival, now popular across all faiths in India and across the globe through diaspora from the Indian sub-continent, takes place during the month of March. It heralds amongst other things the arrival of Spring, the victory of good over evil and a day of love and happiness.

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This ancient Hindu Festival, now popular across all faiths in India and across the globe through diaspora from the Indian sub-continent, takes place during the month of March. It heralds amongst other things the arrival of Spring, the victory of good over evil and a day of love and happiness.

The first written reference to its existence comes from a mention in a 7th century work, Ratnavali, by King Harsha, but it is believed to have been celebrated at least around the time of Christ.

It used to be a rite performed by married women praying for the well-being of their families, during which Raka, the full moon, was worshipped. The legend that supports the good vs evil which is at the root of the festival concerns Lord Vishnu (the goodie in the story) and Hiranyakashipu (the demon Lord). Lord Vishnu assassinates the younger brother of Hiranyashipu and turns his son, Prahalad, to good rather than continuing his father's demonic ways. Outraged Hiranyashipu decides to kill his son with the help of his loyal daughter, Holika, who is immune to fire. Holika sits atop a pyre holding her brother in her lap, believing he will be turned to ashes and she will survive. But yes, you have guessed it, Vishnu transfers the immunity to the flames and she burns whilst he survives. This story is celebrated in every community and in every street and the residents dance around the fire and watch as she burns. It is a purification ceremony, burning away evil spirits.

Following this, the next day the fun begins in earnest. The Bengali “Dolyatra” celebrates the tale of Radha and her lover Krishna. Krishna would often, together with his friends, drench other boys with water mixed with dye. This is now a major part of this multi faith Holi period. From experience I can vouch for the drenching and being covered in dye from head to foot.

Surrounding this the major part of the festival are others – the Lath Mar Holi – where women beat and chase men with sticks. This is extremely popular in the Mathura District with the centre being in the Ratha Rani Temple in Barsana. Lord Krishna habitually would taunt the girls,

and in particular Radha, until one day the girls retaliated and chased away the boys beating them with sticks. In the modern version certain streets are cordoned off and both men and women line the pavements as the girls come down beating the men as they go. The young bucks taunt and try to defend themselves from the stick-wielding women. When I say sticks, the ones that I felt on me were long bamboo poles!

Finally, during the temple celebrations, which are a riot of colour, the women tear off the men's shirts and whip them with wet towels as buckets of dye are liberally poured over all.

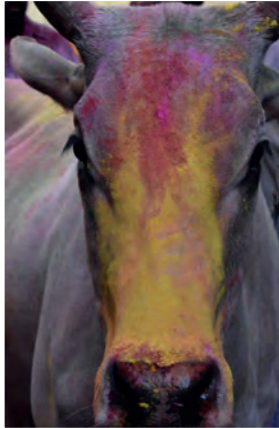
Where to go and what to wear during Holi

Most people hire a guide throughout their stay in India and for Holi it is worth having an expert to get you into temples and find spaces to watch as well as knowing when the other activities are taking place. They also keep the pests away!

Before you go make sure you don't miss the week of festivals. It will be in mid-March, but each area has the celebrations on different dates. All the temples will be packed and you will get both drenched and covered in dye. There is music and lots of wild dancing.

Head for Mathura and use this as a base to visit The Banke Bihari Temple in Vrindavan (“Town of Temples”), one of the holiest; there





are a number of temples in the city, all of which hold their own celebrations. Krishna grew up here and there are consequently many temples dedicated to him or his lover Radha. It is a good place to enjoy the Holi Festival.

Drive or get a taxi the 25kms to the Shri Dauji Maharaj temple from Mathura. This is a place of pilgrimage for followers of Lord Krishna's elder brother Baldeo and the temple built in the 16th century is dedicated to him. This attracts visitors from all over India, so arrive early otherwise you will not be able to view the pilgrims going around the shrine in the centre. Holi here is called Huranga.

Wear clothes and shoes you will throw away after each day as they will be both wet and dyed a variety of colours. If you suffer from any breathing ailments wear a mask as there is lots of dye in the air. If you do not want pink or green hair for two months afterwards wear a head covering. You will be bare foot as you must leave your shoes and socks at the entrance to each temple.

The ghats at Vrindavan and all throughout each town you visit will have a day when the

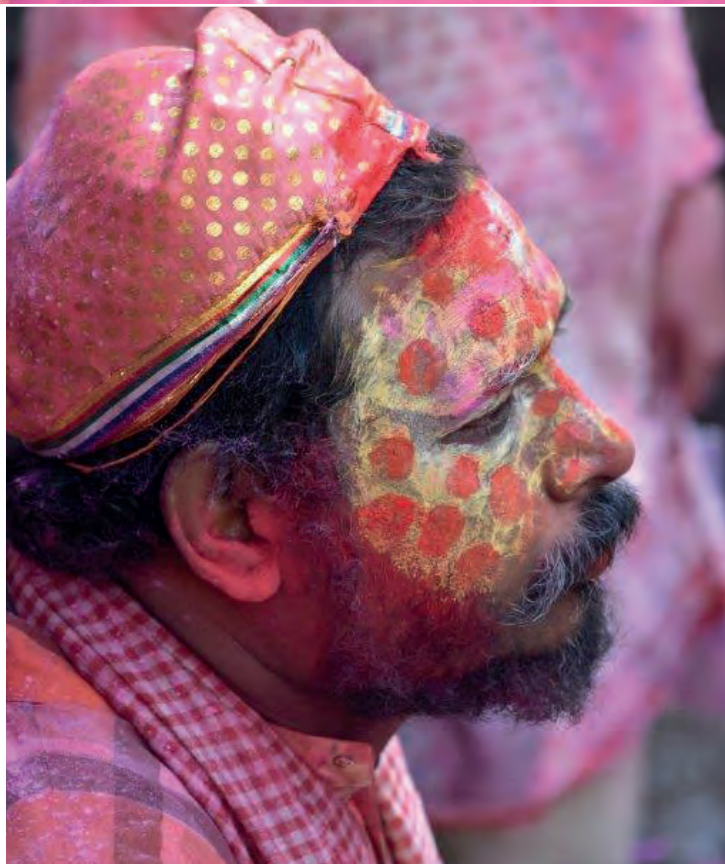
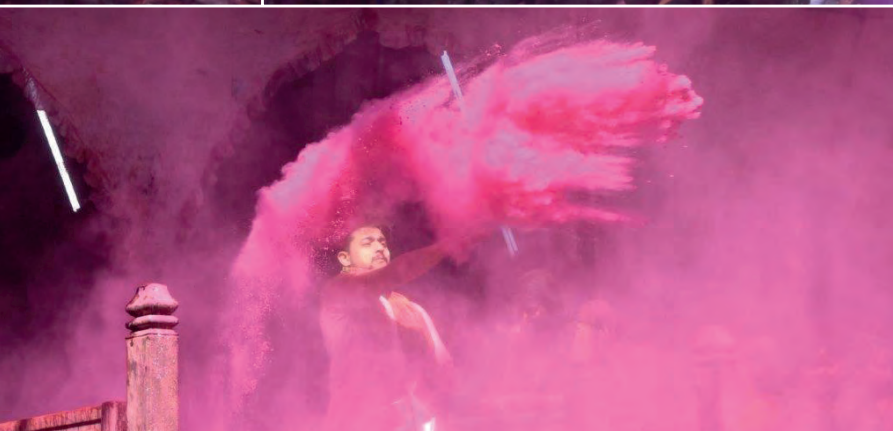
entire populace comes out, and with music comes water and dye. Beware the roof tops and the younger children as they drop from above and get the most satisfaction in covering you.

It is a fantastic spectacle.

Extend your visit

The festivals only last for a limited time, and frankly a few days of facing the daily onslaught of dye being rubbed on your face and in your hair is quite sufficient. You can add all sorts of interesting places to an itinerary. Mine started in Delhi, which is a chaotic city and for me has little charm, having been here many times. From here I took a train (I would always recommend a train journey as they are a microcosm of India on wheels) to Mathura Junction. This by Indian standards is a short five and a half hour trip. You can order your food on your phone and it is brought on fresh at one of the many stops en route. The railway chai is good and the chai sellers come down the carriages every ten minutes. Book first class only unless you want to join the locals diving in the windows to get some room in the other carriages. From the Junction we were driven the relatively short distance to Ranthambore.

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This is one of the best National Parks to see the elusive Tiger. It is one of the largest and most successful in restoring the Tiger. Some ten separate routes in the 10% of the Park that is open to tourists are strictly controlled and a different route is allocated for each of the two daily drives. The scenery is quite spectacular as it is hilly with deep ravines and large lakes. Within the Park is the Ranthambore Fort, a medieval stronghold for Rajputs and famous Emperors such as Akbar and Aurangzeb; listed as UNESCO world heritage site it is impressive (beware the ever present monkeys). The best months for Tiger spotting are October to April; the Park closes in June when it is also very hot. Stay at Ranthambore Regency Hotel.

From here you can easily reach Jaipur, Kota or Bundi, all about 120-150 kms away by road. I went from here to Mathura and the Holi festivals and from there to Agra and the Taj Mahal. Then finally back to Delhi for flight back.



“Within the Park is the Ranthambore Fort, a medieval stronghold for Rajputs and famous Emperors such as Akbar and Aurangzeb”

This Bank of Hindustan, unissued 250 sicca rupees, (1823-27), Portuguese India, archival specimen 10 rupias, 1906 and India Princely States, Hyderabad, 1000 rupees, ND (1929) will form part of our upcoming World Banknotes sale on 4th and 5th November 2020. For further information please contact Barnaby Faull, bfaull@spink.com.



INSIDER TRAVEL: INDIA



How to Get There

Many of the major airlines operate flights to Delhi, but as good a starting place as any are British Airways and Air India, both of which offer direct flights from London.

Eating and Drinking

Indian food is renowned for its tantalising flavours, spiciness and enormous variety. The flavour of each dish is a careful balance of herbs, seasoning and spices, the cornerstone of which is rice, but there are many different varieties of bread – from light, flat chapattis to the heavier naan. The North favours meaty stews and kebabs, while the South specialises in highly spiced vegetarian curries and dosas, with fine seafood to be found in Bengal, Goa and Kerala.

However, we have all heard the well-worn phrase “Delhi belly” and travellers should take certain easy precautions to avoid getting sick! These include not eating raw meats or any kind of raw food, uncooked cheese or unpasteurised dairy products, and avoiding fruit and vegetables which have been peeled and/or not cooked. Always wash your hands and then sanitise them too; ideally take your own travel cutlery, and don’t eat off wet plates. Don’t drink directly out of bottles or cans, only drink filtered or bottled water, and don’t eat the ice! Another good tip is also to wash your hands after touching money, and ask for “No-spicy” if your stomach is susceptible to very spicy food. Taking probiotics is a good idea while travelling, and charcoal tablets are a godsend!

Where to Stay in Delhi

If you’re interested in museums then consider staying to the north east of New Delhi, just south of Connaught Place. If you’re going on business then Connaught Place is probably your best bet, though if you want to be closer to the airport you’ll want to stay in the Sarojini Nagar district. Old Delhi is the best area for those wanting to see the Red Fort and take in the city’s rich architecture.

There are many luxury and affordable options to choose from, but here are two New Delhi options which should suit most budgets:

Located 0.6 miles from New Delhi’s City Centre and Business District, Hotel Imperial offers a beautiful outdoor pool, spa services and seven dining options. It is a ten-minute drive from New Delhi Railway Station, five miles from Nizamuddin Railway Station and a 25-minute drive from Indira Gandhi International Airport. A luxury hotel with modern delivery of old-style class, it marries an iconic heritage with colonial elegance – and English tea every afternoon in the Atrium! The Imperial, Janpath Lane, Connaught Place, 110001 New Delhi – prices start from £128.

A stay at The Claridges New Delhi places you in the heart of New Delhi, minutes from Gandhi Smriti and close to Humayun’s Tomb. With its combination of old world charm and contemporary furnishings, outdoor pool and large garden, and just 3km from the city centre, it is near neighbours with the landmark Taj Mahal Hotel at just a fraction of the price. The Claridges New Delhi, 12 Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road, 110011 New Delhi – prices start from £64.

OBITUARY

COLIN NARBETH LM-01 1929 – 2020 A TRIBUTE

By Jonathan Callaway

It is with huge sadness that I write these words: Colin Narbeth passed away on 2nd May 2020 at the ripe old age of 90 years. What follows is a tribute to his long life and many achievements.

It was only last August that he completed his 90th year and we in the IBNS in London were so pleased to be able to celebrate this significant milestone with him and friends old and new. That event brought together colleagues of his from his long business life, including Stanley Gibbons. Altogether over 50 people joined us.

Colin Narbeth was born on 29th August 1929. Over the years he became a father, a grandfather and a great-grandfather. He developed a lifelong interest in Buddhism at the age of 18 and went on, after several years in the Royal Navy, to become a journalist, author, businessman and dealer.

He caught the collecting bug early, as a schoolboy in the 1940s, and became an inveterate and infectiously enthusiastic collector not just of stamps, his first love, but of banknotes, and of course so much more – his house was filled with his collections of old keys (and the locks they belonged to), gambling dice, mother-of-pearl gaming counters, different types of coral, old matchboxes, sea shells, you name it. And these were just a few of his many enthusiasms. He always seemed to be starting a new collection of something or other – nothing could dampen his appetite for new knowledge and new collecting horizons.

Colin is best known to us as IBNS Life Member Number 1. He was the founder and driving force behind the creation of the IBNS back in 1961 and was a true pioneer of the study and collecting of paper



Colin at home with his beloved dog.

“Colin loved to talk, was delighted to reminisce and had an excellent memory of people and places that made the occasion a real journey of discovery for me.”



Clockwise from bottom:

Colin at his desk at Stanley Gibbons, with a rare British North Borneo Company note.

Colin (r), Jimmy Lawrence (c), Mr Hudson (l).

Colin cuts the cake at his 90th birthday party.

Colin outside his home in October 2014.

Colin and Simon at Chawton, the home of Jane Austen, in November 2014.

“His optimism and positivity about the hobby was so infectious, especially so when in the presence of younger collectors thirsty for knowledge.”

money. He gathered and organised a widely spread group of fellow enthusiasts to create the organisation we know today. He was insistent from the outset that the aims of the Society should be educational, to share information, carry out research and above all to bring together people from all over the world with enquiring minds and similar interests.

He served as Editor of the Journal from Issue No 1 in July 1961 through to 1970, and again from 1975 to 1978. His first end of year report in 1962 recorded that the membership of just two – himself and Dr Walter Loeb – had increased to over 200. He produced the first issues himself, printing them on an old Gestetner in his attic in his home in Essex.

Colin went on to serve as the Society’s 11th President and again made a huge contribution to the growth of the Society around the world. The sight of Colin wearing his gold chain and medal was a common one whenever the IBNS had a formal event in London. This was awarded to him by Guido Crapanzano when we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the IBNS in 2001.



full-size output



Colin's shop in Cecil Court

Even before the IBNS was established Colin had published several books on collecting stamps, coins, banknotes and bonds. In all he published over 20 books from the 1960s onwards, most aimed at the general reader and designed to entice them into the world of collecting. The first edition of "*Collecting Paper Money*" came out in 1968 and it has been reprinted and updated several times since. He was also proud of his role as co-author of the first catalogue of Tibetan paper money, a subject close to his heart and inspired by his lifetime interest in Buddhism.

He also found time to set up the magazine *Stamp Weekly*. As a dedicated philatelist Colin was an avid collector and researcher of stamps and postal history and his special subject was Sudan, especially the early colonial period at the time of General Gordon and the Siege of Khartoum. He assembled one of the definitive collections on this subject and this naturally included examples of currency notes signed by General Gordon himself.

It was through his philatelic interests that he came to work for Stanley Gibbons. First invited to work for them as manager of their catalogues

division, he persuaded them to allow him to set up a banknote department at the firm. That was in 1970. They backed him and with the standing of the Stanley Gibbons name he was able to build a thriving business under their umbrella. Gibbons under Colin published several books on banknotes including the first editions of *English Paper Money* by Vincent Duggleby and *Scottish Banknotes* by Jim Douglas.

His time at Stanley Gibbons came to an end only when a new Chairman was appointed who felt banknotes and stamps did not belong together. Colin went on to set up his own banknote business, Colin Narbeth and Son Limited, which continues as a family business today, run by his son Simon. After many years at Charing Cross the shop is now at Cecil Court in the centre of London.

In addition to the IBNS, Colin was a Fellow of the Linnean Society (a learned society dedicated to the study of natural history and biology) and a leading member of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

When I interviewed him for the *IBNS Journal* in 2015 (see 54.1) it was over a very long



IBNS Congress Committee in 2011. Colin is second from the right.



Report and photo of Colin from 1982

“Colin was always friendly and helpful and without doubt he handed me the banknote job at Spink by hiring Chris Stocker to front Stanley Gibbons and creating an opening at Spink”

lunch at his favourite restaurant in St Albans, just north of London. We agreed to tape the discussion (and I still have the tape, including all the controversial stuff that never got printed!) because I knew he would have a lot to say and I was sure I would never remember it all. How right that was! Colin loved to talk, was delighted to reminisce and had an excellent memory of people and places that made the occasion a real journey of discovery for me. We have had lunches before and since and they were always just as enjoyable. He always had a new story, some more repeatable than others!

I relished his company and I will miss him hugely. His optimism and positivity about the hobby was so infectious, especially so when in the presence of younger collectors thirsty for knowledge.

Head of Banknotes Barnaby Faull adds:

I knew Colin for almost as long as I have worked at Spink, 44 years. When he was at Charing Cross arches after Stanley Gibbons, the auctions at Drury House, how I wish we could go back and bid again. Colin was always friendly and helpful and without doubt he handed me the banknote job at Spink by hiring Chris Stocker to front Stanley Gibbons and creating an opening at Spink. I knew nothing about notes but notes were not taken seriously at the time so inadvertently Colin has given me nearly 40 years of paper money! Colin was always much respected in the business and was always supportive of “the new kid on the block” so probably more than most I owe Colin a debt of gratitude for the last four decades of my working life.

SPINK

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A HISTORY OF NUMISMATICS IN BRITAIN FROM
THE RENAISSANCE TO THE ENLIGHTENMENT
VOLUME I



ANDREW BURNETT

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RNS SPECIAL PUBLICATION NO.58

METALLURGY IN NUMISMATICS 6

MINES, METALS AND MONEY:
ANCIENT WORLD STUDIES IN SCIENCE,
ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY



EDITED BY
KENNETH A. SHEEDY
AND
GILLAN DAVIS

RNS Special Publication No. 56

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SPINK



SALE CALENDAR 2020

SEPTEMBER

3 September	The Charles Freeland Collection of Three Islands: St Lucia, Nevis & St Vincent	London	20037
25 Aug-8 September	Stamps of the British Commonwealth	London	20139
15 September	The Stratos Sale of Spectacular English Gold Coins	London	20005
15 September	The Ennismore Collection of Anglo-Saxon and Viking Coins	London	20055
26 Aug-16 September	Spink Numismatic e-Circular 4 - Part I: Halfcrowns, Florins & Shillings	London	20124
27 Aug-17 September	Spink Numismatic e-Circular 4 - Part II: Ancient Coins	London	20154
10-21 September	The Numismatic Collector's Series Sale	New York	360
2-22 September	Bonds and Share Certificates of the World e-Auction	London	20128

OCTOBER

1 October	The Gary Diffen Collection of Australian Colonies Errors - Part 2	London	20039
1 October	The 'Lionheart' Collection of Great Britain and British Empire - Part XIII	London	20013
3 October	The 'Doyen' Collection	London	20034
22 Sept-6 October	Spink Numismatic e-Circular 5: Indian and Islamic Coins	London	20125
7 October	A Collection of English Patterns	London	20006
8 October	The Mark T. Ray Collection of English Banknotes	London	20021
14 October	Stamps & Covers of Southern Africa	London	20040
6-15 October	The National Toy Soldier Museum Collection: Part 1 - Uniforms	New York	362
16-27 October	Autographs & Documents e-Auction	New York	364

NOVEMBER

13 Oct-1 November	The Numismatic Collector's Series e-Auction	Hong Kong	CSS55
4/5 November	World Banknotes	London	20009
23 Oct-9 November	The Philatelic Collector's Series e-Auction	Hong Kong	
28 Oct-11 November	Stamps and Covers of France and French Colonies	London	20160
4-17 November	The Double Head & Admiral Stamps of Rhodesia	New York	175
11-19 November	The National Toy Soldier Museum Collection: Part 2 - Medals	New York	363
17 November	A Fine Collection of English Rarities	London	20023
19 November	The 'Dubois' Collection of Jamaica Postal History and Stamps - Part I	London	20041

DECEMBER

1-9 December	The Philatelic Collectors' Series Sale	New York	176
1-10 December	Spink Numismatic e-Circular 6: Sixpences	London	20126
8/9 December	Orders, Decorations and Medals	London	20003
3-14 December	Estates and Collections e-Auction	New York	365
15 December	The Tony Abramson Collection of Dark Age Coinage	London	20000

The above sale dates are subject to change.

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