

INSIDER

ONE BOY'S JOURNEY FROM ABANDONMENT TO TRAFALGAR

19TH CENTURY US CONSULAR SERVICES IN INDIA

WHISKY CASK OWNERSHIP — A NEW VENTURE

THE SALE OF THE HENRY III GOLD PENNY

THE SIMON ENGLISH COLLECTION

THE OPIUM WAR COLLECTION

AN IRISH BANKING DISASTER

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW TALENT

MEDALS AT MAIWAND





SPINK

LONDON
1666

WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

WINTER 2021


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GROUP CHAIRMAN AND CEO

Olivier D. Stocker

DIRECTORS

Tim Hirsch FRPSL

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Alison Bennet

CHIEF CUSTOMER OFFICER

Rita Ariete

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER & HEAD OF EMEA

Mira Adusei-Poku

HEAD OF ASIA-PACIFIC

Sue Pui

HEAD OF CONSIGNMENTS

Charles J Blane

YOUR SPECIALISTS**STAMPS**

Tim Hirsch FRPSL Iain Murphy David Parsons Nick Startup
 Neill Granger FRPSL Dominic Savastano Josh Barber
 Thomas Fell Michele Martini Ian Shapiro (Consultant)
 Guido Craveri (Consultant) Christopher Green
 George Yue (Consultant) Alan Ho

COINS

Kelvin Cheung Richard Bishop Tim Robson
 Gregory Edmund Barbara Mears Georgie Potter
 Kin Choi Cheung Paul Pei Po Chow Joseph Lam
 Greg Cole (Consultant)

BANKNOTES

Kelvin Cheung Barnaby Faull Elaine Fung Arnas Savickas
 Paul Pei Po Chow Greg Cole (Consultant)

ORDERS, DECORATIONS & MEDALS

Marcus Budgen Harry Blackett-Ord Greg Cole (Consultant)

BONDS & SHARES

Kelvin Cheung Mike Veissid (Consultant)
 Greg Cole (Consultant)

BOOKS

Emma Howard Fabian Rigby

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

Thomas Fell Neill Granger FRPSL
 Ian Shapiro (Consultant)

WINE AND SPIRITS

Newton Tsang (Auctioneer)

SPECIAL COMMISSIONS

Robert Wilde-Evans

CLIENT & AUCTION MANAGEMENT TEAM

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 Jade Le Petit Fred Lawton Oliver Reece
 John Winchcombe Viola Craveri
 Moira Johnston Newton Tsang Katrina Chan

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Alison Bennet Sue Pui Marco Fiori Mina Bhagat
 Dennis Muriu Veronica Morris Nicholas Waring

IT & ADMINISTRATION

Michael Lewis Arran Simon Liz Cones
 Slawomir Kolsut Newton Tsang Jacqueline Wong

PR & MARKETING

Rita Ariete Alzbeta Lanova Nerissa Douglas

REPRESENTATIVE FOR AUSTRALIA

Michael R. Downey mdowney@spink.com

REPRESENTATIVE FOR CANADA

Timothy J. Stewart tstewart@spink.com

REPRESENTATIVE FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Andrew Kennedy akennedy@spink.com

REPRESENTATIVE FOR JAPAN

日本での弊社オークションへの出品に 参加に関してのお問
 い合わせ

Alan Ho japan@spink.com

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Clients and Friends,

A very strong third quarter for the market and Spink

Dare I suggest that the past three months at Spink have seen more action than any other auction house in London – certainly in terms of breaking records? We witnessed the most remarkable fortnight of coin auctions in September, with well over £4mn and 22 world records achieved by the Spink Coin Department. The top seven lots of the Coinex fortnight were hammered on the Spink block, including a new house-record for a coin set on the night of the Horace Hird Collection of Tudor, Stuart and Commonwealth Gold Coins and Patterns, with 21 world records set over 52 lots totalling £2.81mn. Simply put, half of all the coins sold during the Coinex week in London were sold by Spink - a first I believe. Quite a start to the season!

This was immediately followed by our exhibition of artist Ann Carrington's work, which kicked off in style with a VIP reception in our London gallery on 16th September. Guests mingled with the artist and heard first-hand about the inspiration behind some of her pieces, while admiring her work up close and purchasing their dream piece. Ann is also more than happy to create a special piece for your favourite collectable items; if you are interested, please feel free to contact me. I am already doing mine with the Type Blanc, my favourite stamp. Visitors to Stampex were also able to view Ann's work, as after a two-year break the show finally went ahead in September. Hundreds of collectors took the opportunity to visit the Business Design Centre in Islington and catch up with friends and fellow collectors, at which SPINK (as main sponsor of the show) were proud to host a variety of talks and events, taking the prize for best dressed stand to boot. In this day and age of digitalisation, Spink and I cherish the direct face to face contact and we will continue relentlessly to work on those special moments where we can all interact and have fun.



October saw Spink Books author Richard Abdy win the inaugural ANS Collier Prize for his outstanding *Roman Imperial Coinage II.3: From AD 117 to AD 138 – Hadrian*. Many congratulations to Richard on his win. The Stamp team were in attendance at the Salon Philatelique d'automne in Paris which ran in to early November, where another flagship Spink book, the *Spink Maury Catalogue de Timbres de France*, was extremely well received by collectors for its unique level of detail.

As you will have noticed from the cover of this magazine, November saw a new departure for Spink, and a new collaboration with Cask 88, as we kicked off our whisky cask e-auction in style with a tasting for VIP guests in the Spink Gallery on the 16th. The evening was a resounding success, and I am pleased to say that there is still time to bid in our e-auction – even though all lots are already covered, 20 days from closing the sale. Why not buy that ultimate Christmas present for the whisky-lover in your life? For further details please see our Cask 88 special feature, and a roundup of the tasting in London News. I am particularly thrilled by this new venture as Spink sold the first cask ever sold at auction almost a decade ago, and held the record price for a cask sold at auction until a few weeks ago, but now we want to bring you the possibility of cask ownership in a one stop shop. We can help, through Cask 88, with storage, bespoke label design, bottling, duties and shipping - cask ownership is not reserved any longer for the sophisticated and well-connected whisky collectors. We hope to do cask auctions every two or three months if the interest is confirmed and we can source enough casks.

Where to from this point? Some quick thoughts on the market

Regular readers will know that our view has remained unchanged since the beginning of the Covid crisis. We continuously saw Covid as an accelerator of all pre-existing trends and thought that Collectables would benefit from them. We have consistently said since the beginning of 2020 that prices would be strong, and that strength would be particularly remarkable in the mid-market, ie items prices between £1,000 and £10,000 (this range varying slightly for each

category of collectables). This bracket covers the items which start to have some real value but are not rare. This is the “soft spot” of collectables; the top end is always strong even if the number of buyers is much scarcer, and the bottom end always has buyers. This soft spot has been amazingly strong since the beginning of Covid, with selling rates much higher than normal and realisations most of the time 10% to 30% above pre-crisis levels.

Collectors are starting to be on the move again – physical collectables shows have also now taken place in most countries

We have also advocated that this window would close the moment collectors, established and new, were able to travel again to see their loved ones or for business, putting aside their albums and cabinets for a return to normal life, maybe with more passion than ever before. It is clear that in the last few weeks the world is reopening again, that some countries have abandoned their strict zero-Covid policies - with the notable exception of China, of course. It must be noted that, in the last few weeks, Europe has become the epicentre of the pandemic, with record levels of new contamination, but thankfully not accompanied by high levels of mortality. Some governments are talking of possible selective confinements due to this fifth wave, but it will be politically difficult to impose new restrictions on populations which are vaccinated and would not easily tolerate another round of freedom restrictions. Demonstrations have already taken place in Belgium, the Netherlands and Guadeloupe, and not all peaceful.

There is a very interesting chart by the Economist tracking the passenger bookings for air travel. It gives us a good sense of where we are along the way to normality. If the first week of January 2020 is based at 100%, International travel collapsed in 1Q2020 to 0%, has now recovered to 40%, and will rise further with the USA-Europe routes de facto re-opened since 8th November. After collapsing to 10% in 1Q2020, domestic travel has now recovered to 80% of pre-pandemic levels. So travel has had a strong recovery, hence following our belief all along that it could be a time to be more cautious on price levels.

THIS QUARTER'S NUMBER

0

or minimise our impact on the planet as much as we can.

even though we ship your purchases by planes and cars, and will continue to do so, we want to continue reducing our carbon impact wherever it is not impacting client service. Our catalogues have been produced for twenty years from sustainable forests and with non-hazardous inks, we want to reduce them to what is really necessary, reduce our electricity consumption, our travel by air, and so on, to contribute our modest part to a better world. We cannot preserve and curate collectables for the next generations and not preserve their planet.

The twin engine of inflation is kicking in and will replace the “stay at home” engine when it subsides

However, we underestimated another consequence of the crisis, and subsequent eye-popping quantitative easing: the return of inflation. As we all remember from the past, inflation can be a formidable driver of tangible assets – property markets across the globe have been roaring already, and it is now our view that inflation will be a key driver in collectables prices in the medium term. In October numbers just released, inflation was a whopping 4.2% in the UK, 4.4% in the EU zone and 6.2% in the USA - levels not seen for decades. So as the “stay at home engine” is slowing down, the “inflation engine” is already in full swing. The jury is still out among economists and observers to see if inflation is a short-term phenomenon due to post crisis bottlenecks, or a longer term one. This is the key question for collectables and indeed, more broadly speaking, for your broader choice of asset allocation going forward. In other words, the window for collectables performance, which we thought would be slowly closing down by now, is still wide open, and shows no sign at this moment of closing. Indeed, our auctions are covered in record times after being put online and bid levels are strong.

So, we continue to see a strong overall market for collectables in the foreseeable future.

An exciting first half of 2022 in perspective

As the year draws to a close we have much to look forward to in January: our sale of the Henry III gold penny and the Simon English Collection look to get the year off to a spectacular start, with NYINC auctions for coins and banknotes also promising a lot of thrills in both categories, including the holly grail of banknote collecting: a full set of the 1916 Zanzibar iconic issue, including the 500 rupees, one of the gems of world banknotes. Interestingly, the gold penny to be offered in January is the first English gold coin and one of only four in private hands. While it is expected to sell in the £250,000 to £500,000 range, it will be offered unreserved with a start price of £5 to stimulate demand by all types of

collectors and as wished by the metal detectorist who found this extreme rarity a few months back. The story of the find is actually a beautiful family story.

In Hong Kong, the sale of the outstanding Opium War Collection will also be one to watch, together with our usual Numismatics auctions in January. Later on in February, we prepare for the show of the decade for Stamps in London, with a fantastic and unusual programme for you, alongside of the official programme.

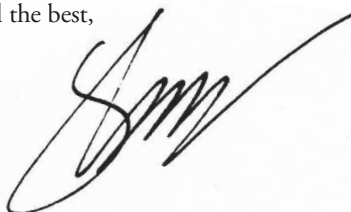
After some art events related to collectables, and the new venture to democratise whisky cask ownership, we have lots of ideas to develop, including some interesting blockchain-related concepts to introduce to our world of collectables. So stay tuned, as we intend to have fun as we service you better and better! I have never been as enthusiastic about the future of collectables and Spink as I am now. And I thank the team of professionals at Spink for this feeling, as it is truly the best team we have ever had in my two decades of tenure.

In the meantime, why not pop in to the Spink Shop – go to Private Treaty on the [spink.com](https://www.spink.com) website – for a range of unique and unusual items for the discerning collector, all at fixed prices – Christmas shopping might be sorted!

Finally, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a wonderful festive season, with hopefully no government restrictions on how many people can be around the dinner table.

I also want to extend my best wishes to all the Spink staff across continents who have worked incredibly hard over the last two years to ensure we have a vibrant community and a no less vibrant business.

All the best,



Olivier D. Stocker, CFA, FRPSL
Chairman and CEO
chairmanoffice@spink.com

SPINK

WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

COMING IN 2022



Henry III (1216-1272), Gold Penny of 20-Pence,
struck from 16 August 1257, London,
Willem FitzOtto of Gloucester
(The King's Goldsmith)

The icon of the Medieval series, being the most significant
contribution to English Numismatics since the discovery of the
Double-Leopard, sold at Spink in 2006.

Estimate: £200,000 - £400,000

23 January 2022 | London

THE NUMISMATIC COLLECTOR'S SERIES SALE AT NYINC

16 January 2022 | New York

THE SIMON ENGLISH ESQ COLLECTION

23 January 2022 | London

LONDON | NEW YORK | HONG KONG | SINGAPORE | SWITZERLAND

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LONDON NEWS

OVER £4.1M AND 22 WORLD RECORDS ACHIEVED BY SPINK COIN DEPARTMENT IN MARATHON COINEX SALES

September 2021

In the most remarkable fortnight in living memory for the London Coin department, eight days of frenetic telephone, SpinkLive and commission bidding across six auctions, four catalogues and two internationally significant cabinets came under the block in a 1,300-lot marathon back in September 2021!

The top seven lots of the Coinex fortnight offered in London would be hammered on the Spink block, including a new house-record for a coin and dozens of World Records set on the marquee night of the Horace Hird Collection of Tudor, Stuart and Commonwealth Gold Coins and Patterns – unseen to commerce since at least 1960 and charting the most exclusive and elusive rarities of Tudor, Stuart and Commonwealth England. 21 world record prices were set in 52 Lots totalling 2.81m including the following:

A WORLD RECORD FOR ELIZABETHAN
NUMISMATICA **£480,000**

A WORLD RECORD FOR A JACOBAN
COIN **£312,000**

A WORLD RECORD FOR THE 1588
ARMADA SHIP RYAL **£204,000**

A WORLD RECORD FOR A CHARLES I
PATTERN UNITE **£180,000**

A WORLD RECORD FOR A HENRY VIII
GEORGE NOBLE **£144,000**

A WORLD RECORD FOR AN
ELIZABETHAN POUND **£144,000**

The British and World Coins Autumn Auction saw a further world record broken with the finest known example of a Mary Queen of Scots 1553 Testoon sold for £60,000. Other highlights included a George IV (1820-1830), Proof Five-Pounds which sold for £69,600 and a NGC MS66+ | EDWARD IV, SECOND REIGN (1471-1483) ANGEL at £28,800.

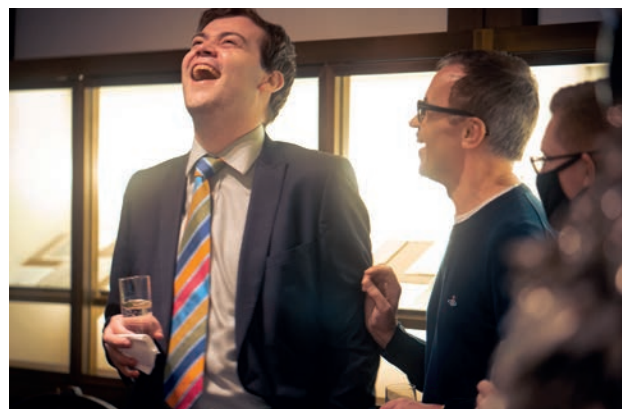
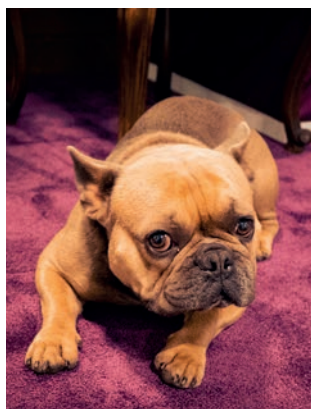
The Tony Abramson Collection of Dark Age Coinage Parts III and IV, combined with Parts I and II sold in March of this year, made over £1.1m – making the Tony Abramson Cabinet the first private million pound Early Anglo-Saxon Collection (600-800 AD).



WHEN ART MEETS NUMISMATICS

16th September 2021

An exhibition of Ann Carrington's work kicked off in style with a VIP reception in our London gallery on 16th September, showcasing Ann's extraordinary talent to spectacular effect. Guests mingled with the artist and heard first-hand about the inspiration behind some of her pieces, while admiring her work up close. The show was almost a sell-out, but it's not too late to view at least one of Ann's pieces, as her Elizabeth portrait will now be on permanent display in the Spink gallery.

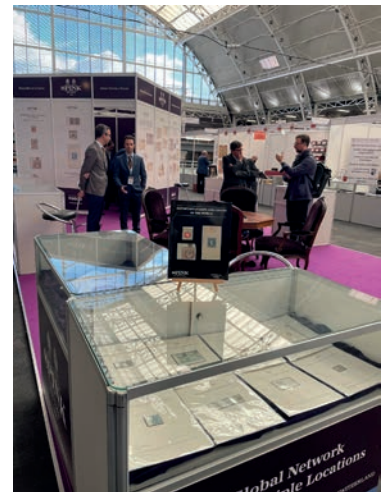


LONDON NEWS

BEST IN SHOW!

29th September to 2nd October 2021

After a long two-year break, Stampex was finally able to go ahead in September and it was very good to be back! From 29th September to 2nd October, hundreds of collectors took the opportunity to visit the Business Design Centre in Islington and catch up with friends and fellow collectors. SPINK were the main sponsors of the event including the new SPINK Auditorium where specialists and societies could hold meetings and give talks on their chosen subjects. Our stand moved away from the previously occupied position to the main mezzanine floor where we could have more space for Auction viewing and also showcase several pieces from Ann Carrington's exhibition in the SPINK gallery. Our team's efforts did not go unrecognised, as we were duly rewarded with the highly coveted Stephen Walter Trophy for Best Dressed Stand!



WATERLOO REMODELLED

20th October 2021

The Spink Medal Department plus VIP guests attended an evening preview and guided tour of a new Battle of Waterloo diorama at the National Army Museum, Chelsea, on 20th October. This fascinating and extremely detailed model was created by Major-General James Cowan, and is supported by the charity Waterloo Uncovered, the NAM and the Royal Hospital Chelsea, telling the story of one of the most famous battles in history through a display on a scale never before attempted. When complete (in 2025) it will feature tens of thousands of model soldiers and be the size of a tennis court!

To the accompaniment of drinks and nibbles, Major General Cowan gave an engaging and detailed introduction to several specific parts of the battlefield, after which there was the opportunity for a closer look at the model and discussion about its creation



LONDON NEWS

RETURN TO WATERLOO

15th November 2021

The Spink team were also privileged to attend the Waterloo Uncovered annual fundraiser on 15th November, held at the beautiful Christ Church, Spitalfields, and hosted by the fabulous Gyles Brandreth! Christ Church is an architectural masterpiece that has been lovingly restored to enhance architect Nicholas Hawksmoor's authentic Baroque features, and was the perfect location for canapés, cocktails and a live auction, plus the chance to learn more about the veteran charity's archaeological and veteran support work.

Auction lots included an incredible holiday, a sapling from the Waterloo battlefield itself, and amazing experiences such as a musketry range day and live black powder firing in the Cotswolds, hosted by BBC's Peter Ginn and the Coldstream Guards 1815 Military and Living History Society. The auction raised £50,000, and all proceeds raised help the charity with their ground-breaking work on the battlefield; to donate please visit <https://waterloouncovered.com/donate/>.





LONDON NEWS

SPINK BOOKS WINS THE INAUGURAL ANS COLLIER PRIZE

October 2021

Congratulations to our author Richard Abdy, who won the very first ANS Collier Prize in October for his outstanding *Roman Imperial Coinage II.3: From AD 117 to AD 138 – Hadrian*. It was selected by the jury from a total of nine entrants based on the quality and accuracy of the work, its scale and scope, and its potential impact and audience – the introductory essay was described as “a masterwork of scholarship”, with ANS Executive Director Gilles Bransbourg calling it “exceptional”. The substantial monetary prize will be awarded every third year to the best work in the field of ancient numismatics. To order a copy please visit our showroom, or buy online from www.spinkbooks.com.

“The introductory essay was described as “a masterwork of scholarship”, with ANS Executive Director Gilles Bransbourg calling it “exceptional””

SALON PHILATELIQUE D’AUTOMNE

November 2021

The *Spink Maury Catalogue de Timbres de France 2022-2023* was a sell-out at the Salon Philatelique d’automne this November in Paris. The team were on hand to meet clients and dealers for the duration of the show, and to assist with viewings of lots for the France and French Colonies e-auction, which proved very popular. The in-person viewing at the show, along with an attractive offering of material for sale, resulted in a high rate of lots sold and impressive prices realised.

If you would like to discuss consigning to one of our forthcoming auctions, to be offered with viewing at the London 2022 in February, please get in touch with our specialists. To order your copy of the Spink Maury catalogue please visit our showroom, or buy online from www.spinkbooks.com.





Robert Wilde-Evans

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED ORDER OF ST MICHAEL & ST GEORGE

Spink Medal Specialists Marcus Budgen, Harry Blackett-Ord and Robert Wilde-Evans recently had the pleasure of attending a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral for the Order of St Michael & St George. Under normal circumstances this is an annual occasion, but for obvious reasons the event has not taken place for the past two years – which gave the morning (and purpose of the occasion) even more importance than usual. The Band of the Irish Guards provided much impressive musical accompaniment and His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent was present in his capacity as Grand Master of the Order.

Founded on 28th April 1818 by George, Prince Regent, to reward those who held commands or positions of authority in the Mediterranean during and after the successful conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars, the Order is now principally awarded to those who hold high office or who render extraordinary or important non-military service in a foreign country, or for important or loyal service to foreign or Commonwealth affairs.

Aficionados of classic British comedies may recall a wonderful scene from the BBC TV series *Yes Minister*, in which Bernard Woolley updates Jim Hacker on the common parlance around Whitehall for the various grades of post-nominal:

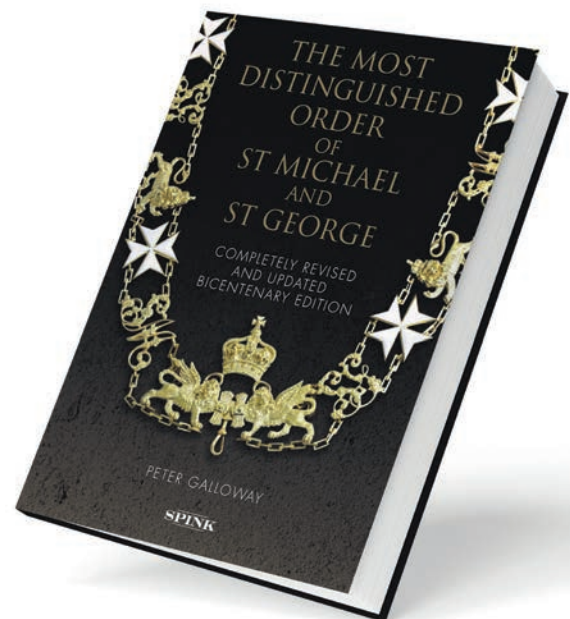
Bernard Woolley: Of course, in the service CMG stands for 'Call Me God'; and KCMG for 'Kindly Call Me God'.

James Hacker: What does GCMG stand for?

Bernard Woolley: 'God Calls Me God'.

The Most Distinguished Order of St Michael & St George is of course a highly regarded honour for very important service over a significant period of time. It was a great honour to be invited to the Annual Service and most encouraging to see that, after an unfortunate hiatus, such events are able to be held again.

The Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George by Peter Galloway is available from Spink Books, www.spinkbooks.com.



LONDON NEWS

GOING THE WHOLE HOGSHEAD

London, 16th November 2021

Spink and Cask 88 were delighted to welcome VIPs and new visitors to the Spink Gallery on the evening of 16th November for a whisky tasting hosted by Cask 88, to celebrate the start of our joint whisky e-auction (which finishes on 9th December). This venture marks the start of an exciting new collaboration to bring whisky cask auctions to a new, wider audience, and offer new and improved services to vendors and buyers alike.

The evening was a roaring success, with a whisky-tasting station for each of the five main Scottish whisky-producing areas – Speyside, Highlands, Islands, Islay and Lowlands – at which guests could try a sample of a Cask 88 bottle from each of these areas. The speeches by Spink CEO Olivier Stocker and Cask 88 CEO Ed Davidson were toasted with drams provided in an edible cup by Nc’Nean Organic single malt





Scotch whisky, and accompanied by Scottish-themed canapes, while a bagpiper outside the Spink premises got guests in the mood as they arrived!

Demand for cask ownership has soared recently, and the most rare and collectible casks are sold before the ink is dry on the cask list. 'Going the Whole Hogshead' gives bidders a fair opportunity to own one of seven incredible casks of single malt whisky, and introduces new audiences to the joyful and rewarding experience of cask ownership.

The finely curated selection ranges from relatively young casks that are set to grow in quality and value throughout their future maturation, to extremely rare and old expressions that are in high demand and held in high esteem. You may have a bottle or two of single malt on your shelf, but have you ever dreamed of owning the whole cask?

The party took off as the whisky and champagne flowed, and several early bids were placed online, kicking the sale off to a spectacular start. But don't worry, there is still plenty of time to take part in the e-auction – please visit <https://live.spink.com/> or download the Spink Live App from the App Store for Apple phones and tablets or Google Play for Android phones and tablets, or visit www.spink.com/live-auctions to download the e-catalogue or to order a hard copy.



LONDON NEWS

SPINK AT SANDHURST – OR THE UNEXPECTED AUCTIONEER

I recently had the pleasure of attending a charity Dinner Night at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Hosted by The Falklands Company (one of 18 companies within RMA), this was the first formal dining event many of the Officer Cadets have been able to experience during their year at the Academy thanks to the restrictions of Covid. With invitations extended to family and friends, my host was Officer Cadet Toby Moran, who I first met during my Army Reserve basic training and who has become a firm friend.

In addition to a superb Black Tie dinner, the objective of the evening was a charity auction to raise money for the Sandhurst Trust, ABF The Soldiers' Charity and several other good causes close to the hearts of many in the military community. The auction comprised approximately 40 Lots, ranging from the worthy and impressive to the light-hearted and tongue-in-cheek: for example, bidders had the opportunity to raise their hands for cases of seriously good vintage wine or weekend stays in some very smart holiday cottages, but also such things as 'being brought tea in bed by your Colour Sergeant'; 'having your boots bulled (*polished to a gleaming shine, for the uninitiated*) by the Platoon Commander'; and 'having your weapon system cleaned by your platoon staff after the final Exercise'.

With over 400 Officer Cadets and their guests in the room, the atmosphere was extremely convivial – but the auction got off to a rather subdued start as, whilst they made a valiant effort,



Taking the sale to a very full (and noisy!) room



Robert Wilde-Evans



Robert Wilde-Evans & O/Cdt. Toby Moran

“The greatest delight of the evening was to see just how far everyone was willing to go to support the wonderful work of their chosen charities”

the O/Cdts detailed for the job of auctioneering were struggling to get their increments in and control a (slightly rowdy) room. After a couple of Lots, I felt a tap on my shoulder – it was one of the Platoon Commanders: “Your friend tells me you’re an auctioneer. These guys aren’t getting anywhere: would you like to get up and take the auction?” It was more of a request than a suggestion.

Having got up, without further ado a microphone was thrust into my hand together with a piece of paper describing the Lots on offer. No notes on estimates; it was rather a ‘wing-it and see’ sort of affair, and certainly the largest room (and audience) I had ever presided over. In this sort of situation, a large glass of wine beforehand does wonders. I like to think I quickly got into my stride.

The greatest delight of the evening was to see just how far everyone was willing to go to support the wonderful work of their chosen charities: the bids really did come flying in, with the father of one O/Cdt paying well over £1,000 for the ‘weapon-cleaning’ Lot; this raised a vast round of applause. Other Lots did equally well and, unsurprisingly, everything sold. This concluded the event on a real high note before the remainder of the evening, which mostly involved dancing until the small hours of the morning.

It was such a wonderful pleasure – and indeed honour – not just to attend a very special event at RMAS, but also to play a part in raising money for the Academy and for these military charities. Sandhurst and Spink have had an association for many years, and undoubtedly this will remain the case for even more years to come.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

THE ESKO TIKKANEN COLLECTION

SPINK NUMISMATIC E-CIRCULAR 12: ANCIENT, INDIAN & ISLAMIC COINS

Going Live from 25th November

This sale features the collection of the late Esko Tikkanen of Finland, containing 795 carefully selected coins – the product of over 40 years of collecting.

Esko became interested in coins as a small boy, and naturally turned to the coins of Finland in his early years; he was a member of the Finnish Numismatic Society for over 45 years. While living and working in Turkey in the early 1970s he discovered Ottoman coins, but upon acquiring his first coin of the Delhi Sultanates he became hooked on the coins of the Muslim dynasties of India. In his 2014 book *Silver Coins of the Indian Sub-Continent from 499 until 1947*, he describes what drew him to this first coin: “It was so fascinating in design and full of text on both sides, that I just had to find out what it read, who was the issuing ruler, and so on.”

Like any good collector he decided to give his collection a focus, concentrating on silver coins, as by doing this he could both build a meaningful collection and handle ‘the people’s money’ as used in everyday life. The core of the collection are the coins of the Delhi and Bengal Sultanates, the Mughals and the Sikhs, although it also extends to encompass representative coins of many associated states, such as the Sasanian Empire, Arakan, the Princely States and the colonial rulers of India.

This auction gives collectors a chance to buy some fine and reasonably priced coins from a great collection, put together over the years with great dedication and pride. Online viewing and bidding from mid-November, closing December.

Viewing from 25th November, closing 16th December. For further information please contact Barbara Mears, bmears@spink.com.



Sikh Empire, Nanakshahi Rupee, Amritsar, VS 1882 (1825), dagger on obverse (1605-28), heavy Rupee of Qandahar



Tripura, Amara Manikya, Tanka, 10.6g, SE 1499 (1577)



Tripura, presentation Rupee, 11.6g, TE 1337 (1930), featuring bust of Raja Vira Vikrama Kishore Manikya (1605-28), heavy Rupee of Qandahar



Portuguese India, Rupia (600-Réis of Goa, 1776, with portrait of José V (1605-28), heavy Rupee of Qandahar



British India, Victoria, Half-Rupee, 1879 C incuse



Mughal Empire, Jahangir (1605-28), heavy Rupee of Qandahar



Sikh Empire, Nanakshahi Rupee, Amritsar, VS 1859 (1802), with hand symbol



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FORTHCOMING EVENT

THE NYINC COLLECTOR'S SERIES SALE

New York, Sunday 16th January 2022

To celebrate the easing of travel restrictions to America (at least at the time of writing!), Spink is delighted to be returning as exclusive show auctioneers at the New York International Numismatic Congress (13th-16th January 2022) at the Intercontinental Hotel. You will no doubt have read about our upcoming instalment of banknotes and paper money on 14th January, but the 'Coin-tingent' will similarly be turning heads!

We are delighted to present a further parcel from the legendary and world-renowned Count Emery Hutten-Czapski collection of 17th-20th Century Polish and World Gold Coins and Medals. Formed over two generations, starting around 1901, this somewhat eclectic parcel charts the significant developments in the study of Russo-Polish numismatics for which the Hutten-Czapski collection has become a now famed reference work. Whilst the condition reflects the traditions of late 19th Century aristocratic values, which are somewhat at odds with today's age of third-party grading, the pedigree of these fascinating rarities remains undeniable. Spink is privileged to be providing the latest instalment of coins from this cabinet, a decade after the last major feature brought worldwide attention.

Equally complimentary is a remarkable 'time capsule' of early 20th Century Czech gold coins rescued from Nazi-occupied territories in the 1930s. This remarkable series of 10-Ducat, 5-Ducat, 2-Ducat and Ducats celebrating the lives of St Wladislaus and the reopening of the Kremnitz mines provides one of the most comprehensive series of these hotly contested coins in living memory, and is sure to be a hit with today's increasingly confident and inspired bidding hordes.

Concluding our prestigious showcase auction is a remarkable series of Ancient, English and World Gold and Silver coins charting the lives of Julius Caesar to Henry VIII, and continental Europe to South America. Highlights





include a previously unrecorded '1934 VIP Proof Set', lamentably omitting only the Florin from an otherwise flawless presentation set. Equally laudable is the exciting run of English hammered gold coins that have proven of significant collector interest in recent months, as testified in other articles. This Collector's Series Sale is not one to be missed.

NB: in order to enter the NYINC show, you will be required to provide proof of vaccination and are requested to wear a mask. This includes entry to any NYINC event or auction viewing site or auction room. You may also be required to show such proof and wear a mask to enter the Convention Hotel, the InterContinental New York Barclay. Please bring your mask and vaccination card or other proof of vaccination with you when you come to the Hotel.

For further information on the NYINC Collector's Series Sale please contact Gregory Edmund, gedmund@spink.com.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

A NEW HENRY III GOLD PENNY - ENGLAND'S "FIRST GOLD COIN"

London, 23rd January 2022

Rarely can a single find provoke such excitement in British numismatics. Notable occasions do however spring to mind with the discoveries of Coenwulf's Gold Mancus in 2001 and the Edward III 'Double-Leopard' in 2006. Indeed, Spink has had the highest honour of bringing to auction both of these coins, and prides itself in 'world firsts' – what better way to celebrate than with this latest find!

For metal detectorists, the pandemic will be best remembered for the discovery of several notable Anarchy-period silver pennies and two early English gold coins. The first came in a suspected hoard of Edward III coins recovered near Reepham, Norfolk in 2020 which has furnished us with a matchless example of Edward III's failed 'Leopard' coinage of 1344. Unfortunately for private collectors, this coin will undoubtedly be declared treasure and become lodged in an institutional collection for the benefit of future study. However, it is the second chance find from Devon in September 2021 that will take global centre stage on 23rd January 2022. This newly discovered Henry III Gold Penny adds but one example to an extremely limited corpus of just eight coins, and the first addition since the accession of the Conte specimen to the Fitzwilliam Museum (Cambridge) in 2001. Notably the new discovery shares a reverse die with this new find, but one must go back 260 years before a die parallel can be found for the obverse.

Enchantingly, this new coin cements the proposed sequence of noted antiquary Sir John Evans posited in 1900, as it provides us with a second example of Evans 'first obverse die' in the series of four known dies. While numismatic focus has traditionally centred on the mythical quality of this talismanic 'emergency' coinage of August 1257, extensive work by world-renowned Henry III specialist Professor David Carpenter of King's College London in the years since our Norweb sale has provided



"This newly discovered Henry III Gold Penny adds but one example to an extremely limited corpus of just eight coins"



fresh context to Henry's gold specie and its raison d'être. Cataloguer Gregory Edmund is most grateful for David's invaluable information on both the source of his bullion and the reason for striking at the onset of the Welsh Campaign against Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, first Prince of Wales. Following a gathering of merchants in London in the November following release, and out of fear of gold being spread thinly amongst the working population, the King relented to Baronial pressure to permit the refusal of his 4-month old coinage in preference for the staple silver Penny. His goldsmith William of Gloucester's hard work of some 52,000 coins would result in a curious 15 year spasm that ultimately settled with their recall and smelting by the early 1270s.

In short, England's first gold coin was nothing but a damp squib. However the artistry of this now prized rarity would indicate a concerted effort on behalf of the moneyer and the King to reinforce the authority of the Royal personage, a position challenged not just by the ratification of Magna Carta, but also famously by Simon de Montfort following the Baron's revolt in 1258, as a precursor to the Battle of Evesham in 1265. A well-known example appeared at the Virtual NYINC of 2021 setting a new high for an English hammered gold coin at auction, and it is anticipated that with an holistic Spink catalogue and a thorough reanalysis by David, this unique one-coin auction will inspire the next generation for whom one will become the very fortunate and proud possessor.

For further information about this incredible opportunity, please do not hesitate to contact Gregory Edmund, gedmund@spink.com , +44 (0) 20 7563 4048, +44 7769 993826

FORTHCOMING EVENT

THE SIMON ENGLISH ESQ COLLECTION

London, 23rd January 2022

When the collection of a Bradford Mayor was consigned to us in the Spring of 2021, we had anticipated it becoming a defining bellwether for the industry and the collecting decade ahead. Unseen since at least 1960, these 52 'exclusive and elusive' gold rarities from Tudor, Stuart and Commonwealth England provided the perfect tonic for a booming marketplace fuelled in equal measure by growing interest, ready cash and prolonged pandemic fatigue.

The white-glove and black-tie evening sale of 28th September did anything but disappoint. The combined might of Spink Live, 13 telephones and the welcome return of room bidders combined to blaze a new frontier for English Hammered Gold – no fewer than 21 World Records would be posted that night. Even our House Record achieved by the Double-Leopard in 2006, which has since weathered the stiff competition of Slaney, Dr Broughton and Glenister, succumbed to an unprecedentedly fierce head-to-head battle. £480,000 (including BP) would eventually be tendered for lot 51, the Elizabeth 'Pattern Groat' otherwise known as the 'Distress Relieved' medalllet in gold, the like of which has not been offered publicly since October 1956. The (admittedly) conservative pre-sale estimate was easily eclipsed as a result of original research by auctioneer Gregory Edmund that provided fresh colour to this enigmatic series, and an important attribution to the celebrated miniature Royal painter, Nicholas Hilliard. At last, a 'Hird' immunity we can all get behind!

With this backdrop, it gives Spink the honour of presenting an unexpected but highly significant follow-up to the pioneering prices of Coinex 2021. Few great collections survive in their entirety from the post-war years and contemporary cabinets of Vincent Ryan, Richard Cyril Lockett and Herbert Muschamp Lingford. Indeed, even Alderman Hird's collection was more than half sold by 1964. The Schneider collection, the one great exception to





this natural cycle, is rightly lauded as the most important collection of 13th-17th Century English gold coins in private ownership.

The opportunity that the lost Hird parcel presented is truly rare in the modern market place, but surprisingly can no longer be stated as entirely unique. Following the events of 28th September, Spink were delighted to consign a further 36 coins from a scholar of Alderman Hird who actively sought to emulate his cabinet, both for scope and quality. Unknown even to his closest contemporaries, this rediscovered collection is perhaps one of the greatest secret English cabinets of the 20th Century, hidden from academic and scholarly scrutiny since its formation between 1961 and 1988. This forgotten name of 20th Century numismatics can now rightfully take his own place in the annals, as the achievements of Simon English Esq will grace our London auction room on Sunday 23rd January 2022.

Highlights of this impressive trove include an eye-catching Class IV Sovereign of Henry VII, arresting 'fine work' and specimen strikings of Charles I gold Unites and fractions, and an impressive series of Jacobean first, second and third coinage issues. We will however save the greatest surprises for the final catalogue which, like that of Hird, will endeavour to be a lasting legacy to this important and noteworthy collection.

The Simon English Esq Collection will be offered for sale in London on Sunday, 23rd January 2022. For further information please contact Gregory Edmund, gedmund@spink.com.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

WORLD BANKNOTES NYINC

New York, 14th January 2022

‘When Spice Island meets NYC’

After a successful autumn World Banknotes auction in London, we quickly turned our focus to NYINC 2022. As the first banknote auction of the year, we are starting on a high with a complete set of Zanzibar currency. All banknote collectors will be familiar with its classic design of the dhow and clove tree, symbolising the importance of trade and agriculture to this small island off the coast of Tanzania.

This will be the first time a complete set is offered for more than 20 years. The set includes a surprisingly rare 1 rupee from its frequent circulation and its single year of issue in 1920. It is scarcer than the higher denomination of 5 and 10 rupees. Both the 5 and 10 rupees are in above average condition with bright appearances.

The 20 rupees dated 1916 in green is often seen in its colour trial form in brown with issuing year of 1908 or 1928; this is the third time an issued 20 rupees is seen on the open market with a previous example being offered by Spink nearly 10 years ago.

Along with the 1 rupee, 50 rupees is the only other ‘single year’ issue and at the moment all other examples known are

either held in private collections or in the Crown Agents collection, currently on display in the British Library.

In April earlier this year a 100 rupees was offered by us which realised £90,000. With this particular example of the 100 rupees, other than the missing corner very few flaws can be found on this high denomination note from over 100 years ago.

Now we move onto the highest denomination of this series, the 500 rupees. Much like the 50 rupees, examples are only found in private collections and in the Crown Agents collection. In its year of issue, 1920, the total annual paper money circulation in Zanzibar was over 3.5 million rupees, meaning this single 500 rupees note accounted for 0.015% of the whole island’s annual circulation.

Much like the imagery portrayed on its banknotes, the name Zanzibar conjures up scenes of dhows in the sunset, and sandy beaches with an overlay of scent of spices. We hope this set of notes will create some ‘heat’ in snowy January in New York City. Having not being able to travel to the US for over a year, we hope to see many of our North American friends and collectors at NYINC.



“Much like the imagery portrayed on its banknotes, the name Zanzibar conjures up scenes of dhows in the sunset, and sandy beaches with an overlay of scent of spices.”



FORTHCOMING EVENT

THE 'SHAMBHALA' COLLECTION OF TIBET

Hong Kong, Friday 14th January 2022

This comprehensive collection demonstrates the many and varied features of the philately of Tibet. For example, the sale commences with an impressive 1830 Imperial yellow silk envelope sent to the Emperor of China from the commander of Szechwan Province. The rare Treasure Seal of the Panchen Lama is available among other stampless mail in this catalogue.

In 1904 the Younghusband Expedition from Britain invaded Tibet. A good selection of the different postmarks used on mail from the British invaders is featured, including a cover simply addressed to an officer in "China". This amazing cover travelled between China, Burma and Tibet before it was actually delivered to the addressee.

The challenges of conquering Mount Everest are extremely well-represented. This is probably the finest selection ever to be offered for sale by auction. The section begins with a cover sent from the first Expedition in 1922 and this is followed by comprehensive representation from the 1924 Expedition. Complete sheets of the special labels are complimented by several examples of each of all of the different postmarks that were employed, some of which are very scarce. The final conquest of Everest in 1953 is noted by a unique set of essay stamps which were prepared for the Indian Post Office. However, in addition to the difficulties of climbing the highest mountain, flying over this peak was also extremely challenging. Thus this feat of flight was recorded on film when accomplished in 1933 by the Houston Mount Everest Expedition. There were several of these special flights, and this sale offers the exceptional examples of mail that was carried on board. Both examples of the only known so-called 'crash covers' came from one plane which became lost and had to make an emergency landing. The pilot and photographer were allowed to carry only one item of mail each, and these are they.



1911 Surchage Issue, 3p on 1c variety surcharge inverted, with sheet margin.
Estimate HK\$25,000 - 30,000

“At one time the 1 tranka and the 2 tranka were virtually identical in colour, enabling postal fraud, where the postmaster used the lower value stamps instead of the higher value, pocketing the difference”



1933 Mount Everest flight 'crash cover', one of only two carried on this flight.
Estimate HK\$12,000 - 15,000



1912 native proof of the first Tibetan stamp.
The lion facing to the right was considered
to be un-Buddhist and this design rejected.
Estimate HK\$25,000 - 50,000

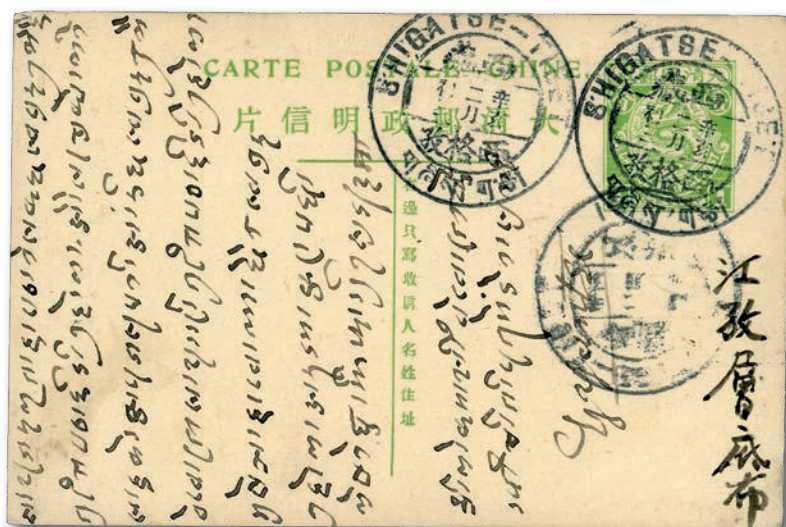
The popular Chinese Imperial Post section offers the only recorded example of the Chinese-style 'On Postal Service' cover. For a limited period, unsurcharged stamps were used on the mail and some are available in this sale including a fine example of the

very rare postal stationery card used in Tibet. There is also a selection of the special surcharged stamps that were used in Tibet, with two examples of the 3p on 1c showing the variety surcharge inverted, of which only 80 such stamps were issued. Several examples of the scarce Trans-Himalayan Route are available on covers. These are followed by examples of the Chinese Post Office in the different associated provinces.

The government of Tibet issued its first postage stamps in 1912. This important section includes a very rare native proof with the lion facing the wrong way and a proof by Waterlow & Sons. As well as complete sheets of twelve stamps there is also an interesting variety of covers. The third issue of Tibetan postage stamps were available in 1933 and became popular with collectors because they were printed in a wide variety of shades and colours. At one time the 1 tranka and the 2 tranka were virtually identical in colour, enabling postal fraud, where the postmaster used the lower value stamps instead of the higher value, pocketing the difference. The very comprehensive group of third issue covers include several bearing bisected stamps which were used when certain values ran out at the post offices.

The auction concludes with examples of covers used during the Chinese People's Post period including military mail and a rare bisect on cover.

The 'Shambhala' Collection of Tibet will be offered for sale in Hong Kong on 14th January 2022. For further information please contact Neill Granger, ngranger@spink.com



The Chinese 1c. postal stationery card. Examples used in Tibet are very rare. Estimate HK\$200,000 - \$250,000



1953 Postal Fraud cover bearing two 1 tranka stamps to pay the 3 tranka postal rate, the postmaster pocketing the difference.
Estimate HK\$3000 - 4000

FORTHCOMING EVENT

THE 'LIONHEART' COLLECTION OF NEW ZEALAND - PART I

Spink London, January 2022

Over the years there have been some outstanding collections of the New Zealand Chalon Head issues offered at auction; those formed by Sir Gawaine Bailie, Joseph Hackmey, Dr David Patterson and most recently here at Spink, the "Pegaus" collection comes to mind. January sees another fine collection of this striking issue brought to the market – the 'Lionheart' collection of New Zealand, Part I.

This collection comes with excellent pedigree; the majority of lots in the sale have come from the great named sales mentioned above alongside others including Major Henry Dumas and the "Chalon" collection.

The sale begins, fittingly with the incredibly scarce 1d. dull carmine-red printed by Perkins Bacon and we are proud to offer both a mint example and several used examples including the unique used vertical pair (Ex. Patterson), other notable lots include examples of the 1855 London Printings 2d. dull blue and 1/- yellow-green, the 1855 J. Richardson 1d. orange, a superb mint example of the 1857-63 1/- dull emerald-green as well as a range of scarce multiples and attractive covers.

All other printings of the Chalon design are included covering a very wide spectrum, giving everyone from the seasoned Chalon specialist to the budding collector a wonderful opportunity to participate in what is sure to be a popular and exciting auction. The sale is going to be held in London on 26th January 2022.

The 'Lionheart' Collection of New Zealand – Part I will be offered for sale in London in January 2022. For further information please contact Josh Barber, jbarber@spink.com.



1855 London Printing 1sh. pale yellow-green



1855 London Printing 2d. dull blue



1855 Richardson 1d. orange



1857-63 1sh. dull emerald-green



1862-63 Pelure paper 1d. orange-vermilion



1864-71 2d. pale blue block of fifteen- a spectacular multiple



1855 Richardson 2d. blue pair on blued paper



1862-64 John Davies G.P.O. Auckland 1d. orange-vermilion block of four



1865 (18 Nov.) envelope to Edinburgh bearing 1864-65 4d. deep rose and 6d. red-brown

PRIVATE TREATY

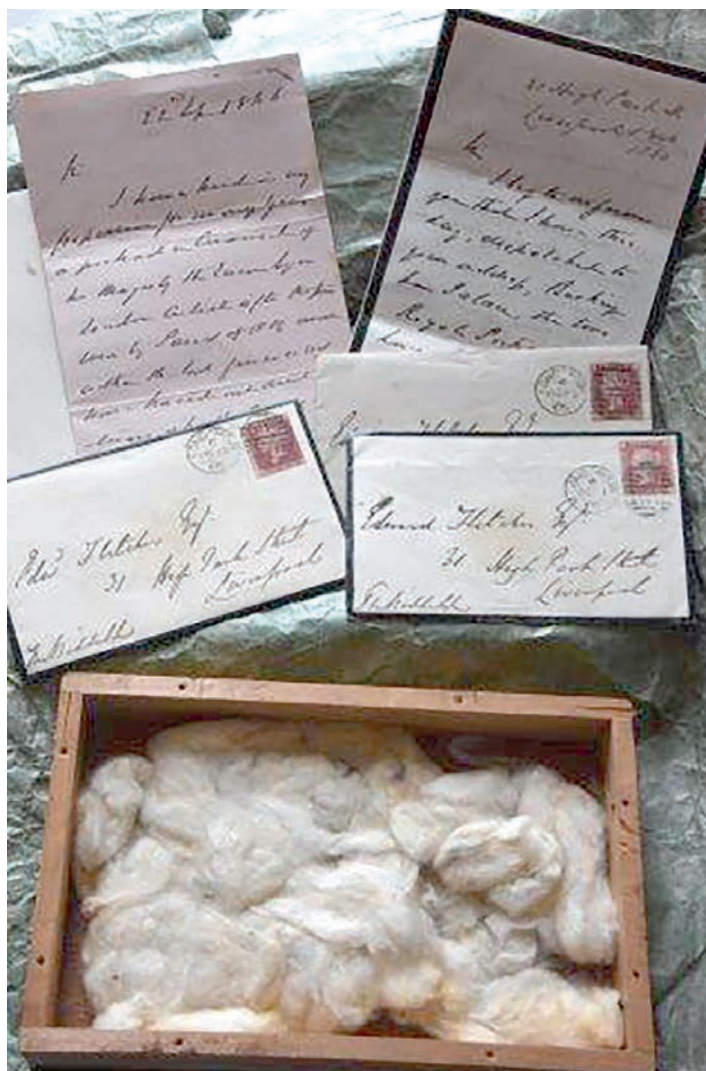
PORTRAITS FOR THE QUEEN

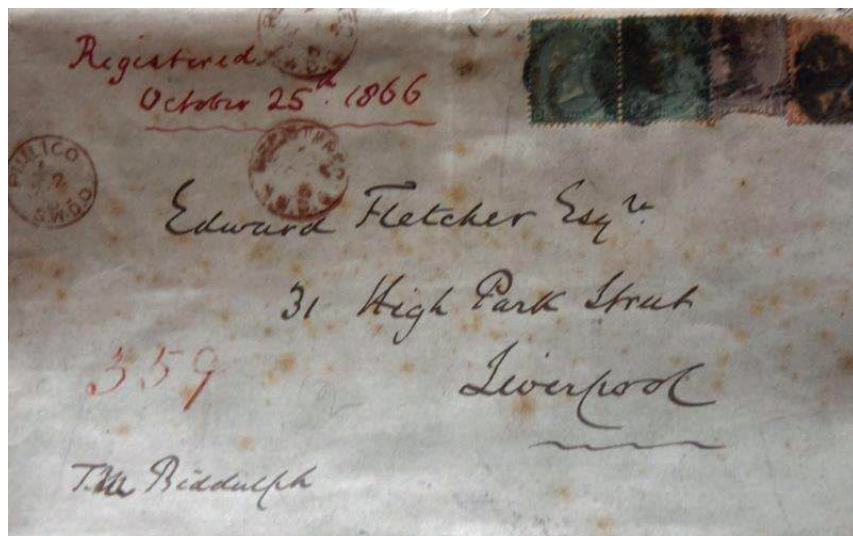
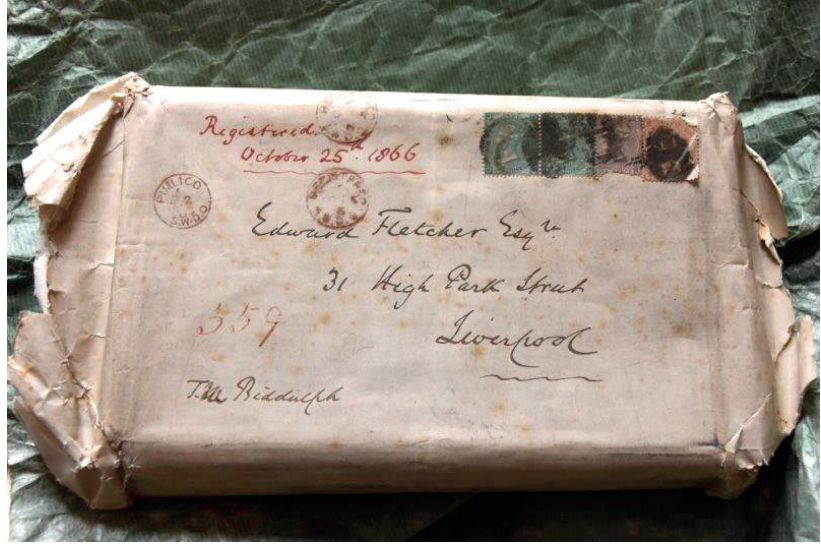
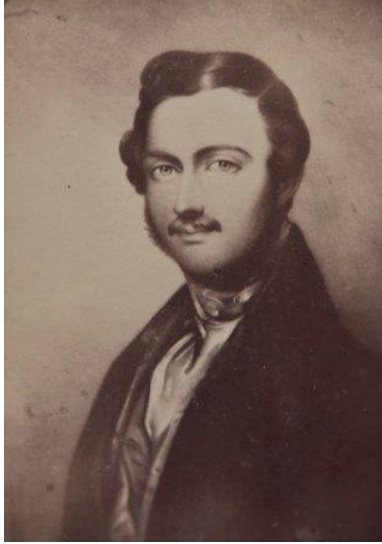
London, January 2022

In 1866 artist Edward Fletcher submitted two portraits to Buckingham Palace; one of Queen Victoria and the other of Prince Albert. In subsequent correspondence included with the lot the Queen indicated her pleasure and accepted the two pictures. In return she awarded a gold presentation medal to the artist (weight 64.78 gms), engraved by William Wyon (there is a separate mount which has the award engraved) from her and a silver Chancellor's medal for Cambridge University, by G.G. Adams (engraved around the edge) on behalf of the Prince Consort.

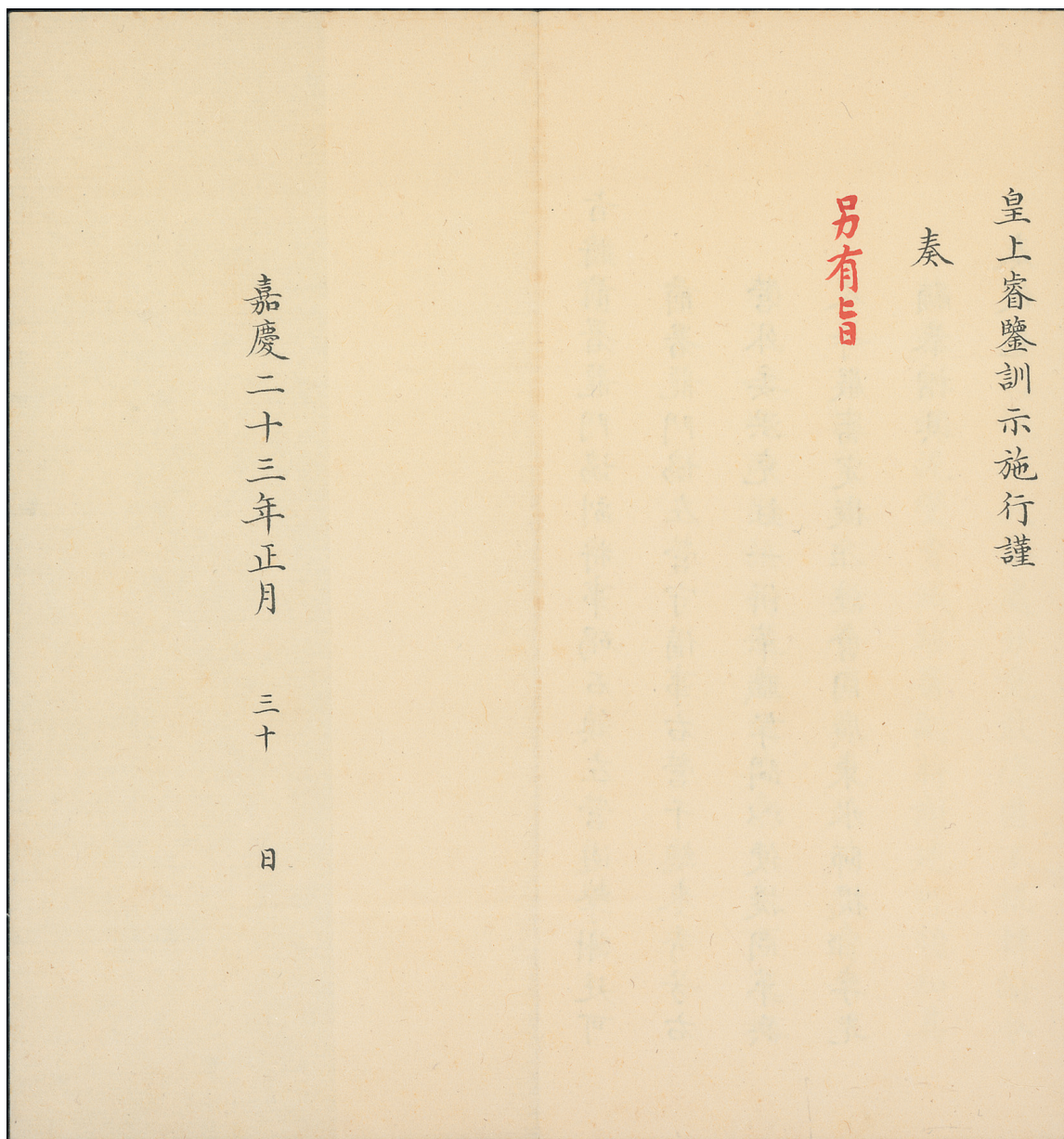
Included with this lot are reproductions of the two portraits, letters from the Palace, the original wrappings and box as delivered to the artist.

To be offered for sale in January 2022, estimate £5,000 plus.





“The British East India Company began growing opium in India and found it a useful, and high value, commodity which helped redress the trade deficit with China”



Dated 1818, a rare official communication to the Emperor from the Viceroy of Liangguang providing details of the illegal opium trade and the handling of illicit money by some Chinese naval officers. Estimate HK\$50,000 – 100,000.



Neill Granger

THE OPIUM WARS

The First Opium War

One of the root causes of the First Opium War was a trade imbalance between China and Britain. Over two or more centuries, demand had grown in European countries for luxury goods from China, notably tea, porcelain and silk. While British merchants were benefitting by importing such exotic cargo, there was no reciprocal demand for British merchandise in China. The Chinese required payment in silver and trade was so great that eventually there was fear across Europe of a silver shortage.

It is thought that opium had been introduced into China in the 5th or 6th century for medicinal purposes. Initially its use was limited but the practice of smoking opium, introduced in the 17th century, caused widespread addiction. The British East India Company began growing opium in India and found it a useful, and high value, commodity which helped redress the trade deficit with China. By 1729 in a renewed attempt to rid China of the addictive drug, the sale and smoking of opium was banned by the Chinese government.

However, the ban was ineffective and opium use increased as the habit of smoking it spread north and west from Canton to affect every class of Chinese society. The situation became serious enough for the Qing government to issue a further ban in 1796. In defiance, imported opium was unloaded onto floating warehouses anchored off islands in the Pearl River delta and then sold to Chinese smugglers, whilst the legitimate cargo continued on to Canton.

Meanwhile, Americans began trading in opium from Turkey. Of a lower quality than Indian opium, the competition drove down prices, resulting in a dramatic increase in both use and demand.

By 1838 there were millions of Chinese opium users and the government took decisive action. The Emperor sent Special Commissioner Lin Zexu to Canton. He quickly arrested Chinese opium dealers and demanded that foreign firms hand over all opium stocks, without compensation. Initially they refused but when placed under virtual siege were forced to give up their opium. The quantity recorded as over 1,000 tons, and is said to have taken 23 days to destroy.

British traders demanded compensation from their government for their losses; however, the British authorities considered the Chinese to be responsible for such payment. Captain Charles Elliot, the plenipotentiary (a diplomat with full government powers), began a series of negotiations to explore a solution that would be acceptable to both parties. Despite his efforts, matters soon deteriorated and British merchants and their families were expelled, first from Canton and later from Macao where they had sought refuge. They were eventually encamped on the merchant fleet sheltering in Hong Kong harbour.

In an attempt to force the re-opening of talks, two naval warships, the *Hyacinth* and the *Volage* were ordered to block the port of Canton to all commercial traffic; the resulting loss of revenue would force the Chinese to negotiate. An agreement was reached but when one clipper ship, the *Thomas Coutts*, broke the blockade as there was no opium on board, the Chinese perceived the weakness in the situation with the British block and tore up the agreement. A second ship, the *Royal Saxon*, also tried to break the blockade; the warships fired warning shots across its bow. Chinese war junks were sent out to protect it so it could dock and unload its cargo and advanced on the *Volage*. They refused the

order to stay away and the *Volage* opened fire on them. In less than an hour, four war junks had been sunk and war had begun.

The British prepared an Expeditionary Force (the Eastern Expedition) from India and Britain. It took several months to get the ships, soldiers and supplies ready and organised in Hong Kong, as illustrated in a business letter written on 1st July 1842 from Turner & Co in Macao to Gladstone & Company in Liverpool – the sender noted that Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane made the journey from England to Hong Kong in just 90 days on the HMS *Vindictive*.

The blockade of Canton was re-imposed and the first task facing the Eastern Expedition was to take the island of Chusan, just south of Shanghai, on 5th and 6th July 1840. A military garrison was established on Chusan.

This act of force was successful in bringing the Chinese back to the negotiating table for talks relocated to Canton. Dissatisfied with the previous negotiations, the Chinese appointed the High Imperial Commissioner, Kishan, to negotiate with Captain Elliot. Negotiations were challenging and a further show of naval and military strength was effected. In January 1841 the two Bogue forts guarding the entrance of the Pearl River were taken. Against the wishes of the military, who wanted to advance on Canton, Elliot persisted with negotiations until, finally, a new Treaty was agreed. The island of Hong Kong was ceded to the British (selected in favour of Chusan) alongside a settlement of \$6 million and re-opening of British trade in Canton.

Unfortunately, neither government was happy with this agreement. Lord Palmerston felt that Elliot had not extracted sufficient concessions and thus he was replaced by Sir Henry Pottinger, who was keen to employ the available military might. Pottinger sought compensation for the opium confiscated and the costs of the war; the opening of further ports to international trade; and the establishment of diplomatic relations.


Again Canton was blockaded. Another northward-bound expedition was organised and Chusan was retaken. This re-established British control over Tinghai's important harbour. Ningpo, home to one of the imperial cannon

No. 3 of 37

Macao 15th June, 1839.

I, CHARLES ELLIOT, Chief Superintendent of the trade of British subjects in China hereby certify that the opium described below formed part of the quantity surrendered by *Daniell and Company* for the service of her majesty's government in terms of my public notice of the 27th March, 1839, and for which surrender they have been furnished with my general receipt and certificate for recovery of indemnity. In witness whereof, I have granted three separate documents all of this tenor and date.

	Chests Patna.
	do. Benares.
	do. Malwa.
	do. Turkey.
Total	<i>Sixty Seven</i> Chests.


A. H. Palmerston
Deputy Superintendent
Chief Superintendent of the trade of British Subjects in China.

Registered No. 3 of 37

Messrs *Daniell and Company* 1839 Macao 15 June, 1839.
London.

With reference to Captain Elliot's general receipt and certificate for Opium surrendered by us for the service of her majesty's government, which we have forwarded to you for recovery of indemnity on account of the parties concerned; we hereby request you will pay to *ourselves* or order, the amount which may be realized for the quantity above specified, viz. *Sixty Seven* chests. We have granted this order in triplicate, one copy of which being discharged, the others to stand void.

	Chests Patna.
	do. Benares.
	do. Malwa.
	do. Turkey.
Total	<i>Sixty Seven</i> Chests.

And you will please to retain 3% Cent, being your Commission from the Amount which may be realized for the quantity above specified.

Daniell and Company

An Opium Surrender certificate issued in 1839 (15th June) is for 67 chests of Malwa opium and bears a fine strike of the Superintendent of British Trade in China handstamp with the Royal Coat of Arms in the centre. This is a very rare document. Estimate HK\$40,000 – 60,000.

factories, was also swiftly overpowered.

Fighting ceased during the winter of 1841 allowing the British to replenish supplies. The threat of the British had previously been continually downplayed but when the Emperor discovered the severity of the situation he dismissed the officials involved and began to fortify Chinese towns and cities.

In spring 1842 the Emperor ordered the retaking of Ningpo. The Chinese did not succeed; instead they prompted the British to recommence their campaign and on 18th May the Battle of Chapoo saw the capture of this important harbour.



This Eastern Expedition cover gives a graphic officer's account of the Battle of Chapoo. In this he tells of their unopposed landing, noting, "... a few gingals judiciously would have annoyed us much...", and how a small force of Tartars fought valiantly when cornered in a building, fighting the British troops for nearly three hours. (A gingal is a large musket fired from a rest.) Estimate HK\$25,000 – 35,000.



This long letter from 'Chin-Kiang-foo' gives an officer's account of his journey from Hong Kong and his eyewitness account which includes, "... We could see the whole process of bringing up the ladders, raising them, then the leading Officer of the Grenadiers of the 55th mounted by himself, and we could see him, waving his sword and engage with the enemy..." Estimate HK\$20,000 – 30,000.

"Pottinger sought compensation for the opium confiscated and the costs of the war; the opening of further ports to international trade"

The British were now in a position to move up the Yangtse River and on 16th June successfully overpowered Woosung (16th June); Shanghai was taken before a hard-fought fight to secure Chinkiang. The British then set sail for Nanking. Before battle commenced officials in the city agreed to a request to negotiate. The negotiations lasted several weeks before final agreement resulted in the signing of the Treaty of Nanking on 21st August 1842. The Chinese delegation signed on board HMS *Cornwallis*.

The Treaty of Nanking abolished the Cohong system and their thirteen factories in Canton were effectively closed down. In addition to Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo and Shanghai became Treaty Ports where foreign merchants were allowed to trade with the Chinese. The Chinese government was to pay \$21 million in instalments over three years as compensation for the loss to the traders in Canton and for war reparations.

Two main types of letter that make important contribution to understanding this war are those from merchants and some from the military. The merchants' letters included the latest news; however, it took some five months for a letter to reach England, therefore frequent letters were written to keep the trade business informed. Military letters usually refer to the normal day-to-day living but some offer illuminating details of the different conflicts and battles. They were usually sent from a navy ship at anchor near one of the ports or occasionally from one of the garrisons camped on land.

“Military letters usually refer to the normal day-to-day living but some offer illuminating details of the different conflicts and battles”



British Troops taking the Island of Chusan in May 1840



HMS Cornwallis and the squadron giving the Salute at Nanking after the Treaty had been signed

The Second Opium War

Neither the British nor the Chinese were happy with the Treaty of Nanking. China felt that this was an unequal treaty while Britain wanted more trade and to be able to sell opium legally. There were repeated acts of aggression against British subjects with occasional retributive action by British forces.

At this time China was also embroiled, among other disputes, in the Taiping Rebellion, which had started in 1850. This was a bitter conflict that took an estimated 20 million lives before it finally came to an end in 1864. The Emperor was trying to solve the issue of opium which continued to be sold illegally by the British at the same time as quelling the ‘Christian’ rebellion.

The final act which ignited open conflict was when the British-registered cargo ship the *Arrow* was boarded by Chinese officials on suspicion of piracy, arresting 12 of the 14 Chinese crew members as well as taking down the British flag. Hostilities escalated and in October Britain destroyed the four barrier forts and sent a warship up the Pearl River which began firing on Canton. Trading ceased and a stalemate ensued. In December the foreign factories were burnt down.

It was around this time that France joined the

British military expedition using the excuse of the murder of a French missionary in the interior of China early in 1856. There were delays in assembling the forces in China as British troops were diverted to India to help quell the Indian Mutiny. The allies began military operations in late 1857. They quickly captured Canton and deposed the city’s governor, Yeh Mingchen. In May 1858 allied troops in British warships reached Tientsin and forced the Chinese into negotiations. The Treaty of Tientsin, signed in June 1858, provided residence in Peking for foreign envoys, the opening of several new ports to Western trade and residence, the right of foreign travel in the interior of China, and freedom of movement for Christian missionaries.

The British withdrew from Tientsin in the summer of 1858, but they returned to the area in June 1859 en route to Beijing with French and British diplomats to ratify the treaties. The Emperor had ordered the Mongol general Sengge Rinchen to guard the Taku forts; he reinforced them with new artillery pieces and 4,000 Mongol cavalry. The Anglo-French forces insisted on landing at Taku and escorting the diplomats to Peking. The Chinese refused to let them pass by the Taku forts and proposed an alternate route to Beijing. The British-led forces decided against taking the other route



1860 (25th March) envelope to Paris, the stamp cancelled by the rare, military 'CECB.CL.' dotted postmark. This is the Central Bureau when it was based in Hong Kong; this bureau was only in Hong Kong for two and a half months. Estimate HK\$20,000 – 30,000.

and instead tried to push forward past Taku. They were driven back with heavy casualties. The Chinese subsequently refused to ratify the treaties, and the allies resumed hostilities.

Once the Indian Mutiny had been quelled, Sir Colin Campbell, commander-in-chief in India, was free to amass troops and supplies for

“Once the Indian Mutiny had been quelled, Sir Colin Campbell, commander-in-chief in India, was free to amass troops and supplies for another offensive in China”

another offensive in China. In August 1860 a considerably larger force of warships and British and French troops destroyed the Taku batteries and proceeded upriver to take Tientsin. The Emperor dispatched ministers for peace talks but the British diplomatic envoy, Harry Parkes,

apparently insulted the Imperial emissary and word arrived that the British had kidnapped the prefect of Tientsin. Parkes was arrested on 18th September along with the other diplomats and many were tortured to death. At the same time the Anglo-French forces clashed with Sengge Rinchen's army at the battles of Tunchow and Baliqiao (Eight Mile Bridge), defeating them resoundingly after their doomed frontal charges into the new Armstrong field guns, their rate of fire and accuracy being deadly. In October Peking was taken and, in retaliation for the treatment of the diplomats, the Summer Palace was plundered and then burned.

Later that month the Chinese signed the Peking Convention in which they agreed to observe the treaties of Tientsin and also ceded to the British the southern portion of the Kowloon Peninsula.

The outstanding Opium War Collection will be offered for sale in Hong Kong on 14th January 2022, with full details of all lots in our lavish and informative catalogue or on our website. For further information, please contact Neill Granger, ngranger@spink.com.

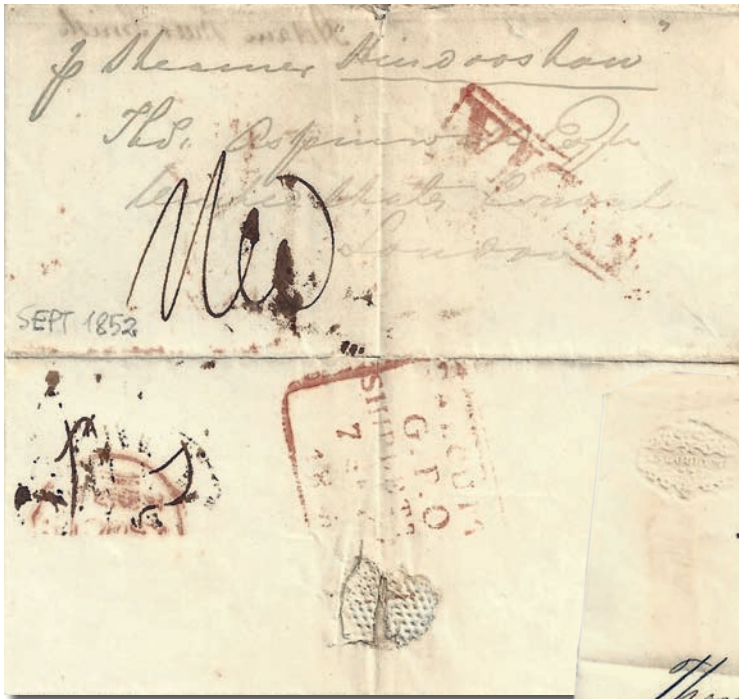
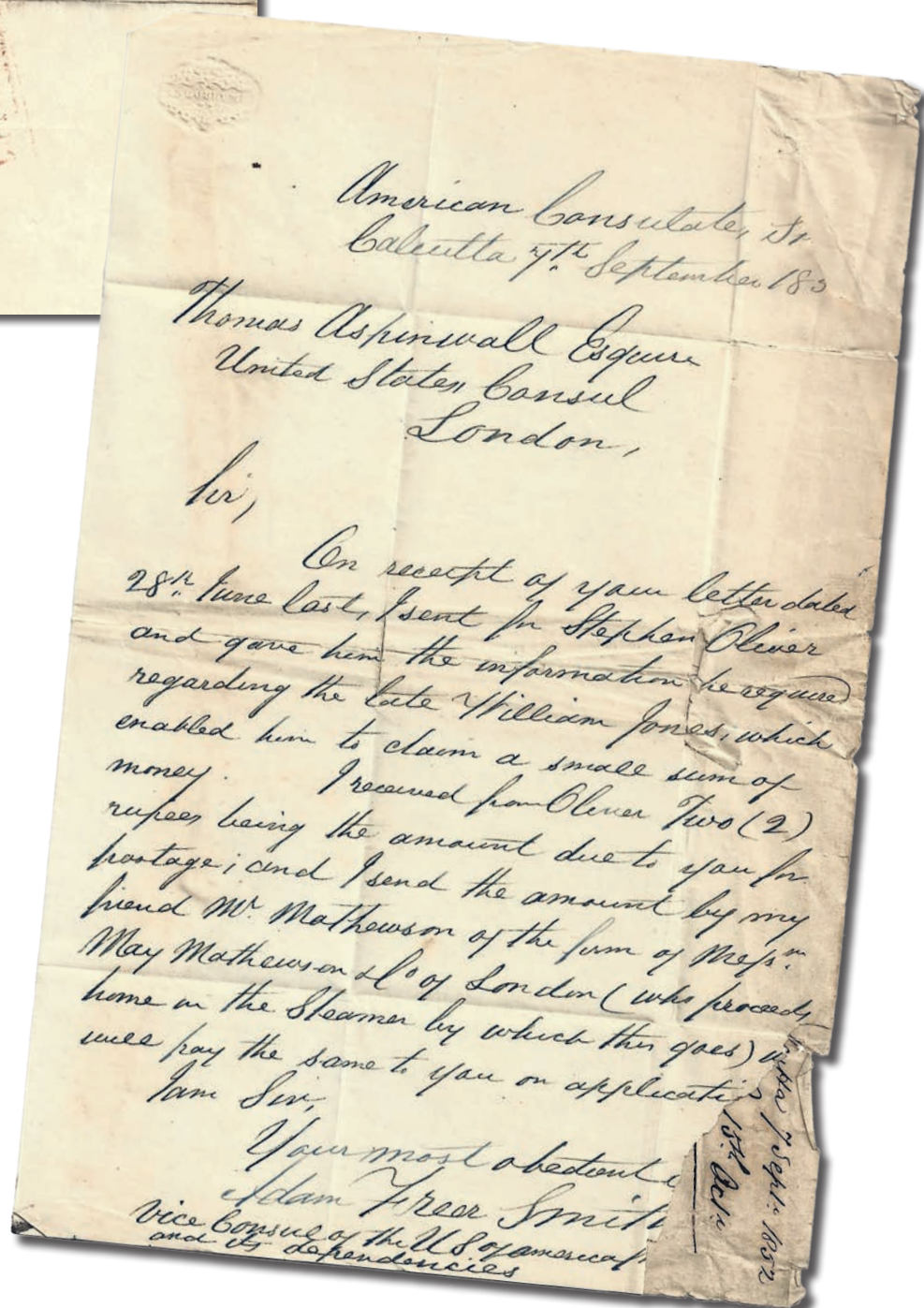


Figure 1: 1852 letter from American Consul Freer to his counterpart Aspinwall in London

“The most common service rendered was to facilitate American traders’ exports by certifying and sending Bills of Lading to the US importer”





Ravi Vora

19TH CENTURY US CONSULAR SERVICES IN INDIA

Early American consular services were established to support American maritime and trading interests around the world, including India. Hence, America sent its first Consul, Benjamin Joy, to Calcutta in 1794, but the East India Company (EIC) only allowed him to function as a commercial agent. Subsequently, Britain allowed American consular presence in Calcutta and Bombay; this article presents their services and appointment of the first Indian as the American Vice Consul in Bombay through covers and letters.

Assisting Americans:

In 1852, American consul Adam Freer reported to his counterpart Thomas Aspinwall in London that he assisted an American, Mr Oliver, claim a small settlement and collected Rs 2.00 from him – the amount of postage spent by Mr Aspinwall.

Trading:

The most common service rendered was to facilitate American traders' exports by certifying and sending Bills of Lading to the US importer. Such documents were bulky and used both for customs clearance at the US port and to settle accounts for goods shipped.

Figure 2: The American Consul General in Calcutta sent heavy trading documents to an American importer in Philadelphia in 1859 with high postage of Rs. 3 Rs. 2 as paid with 1855 2As and 6 x 8 Annas stamps. Cover was sent via London. British PO was credited with 5sh 1d and American PO was credited with 64¢



“the agents requested American Consul to appoint (first mate) WC Graham as Captain and to hand over £500 to him, which had been previously sent over by the ship’s owners”

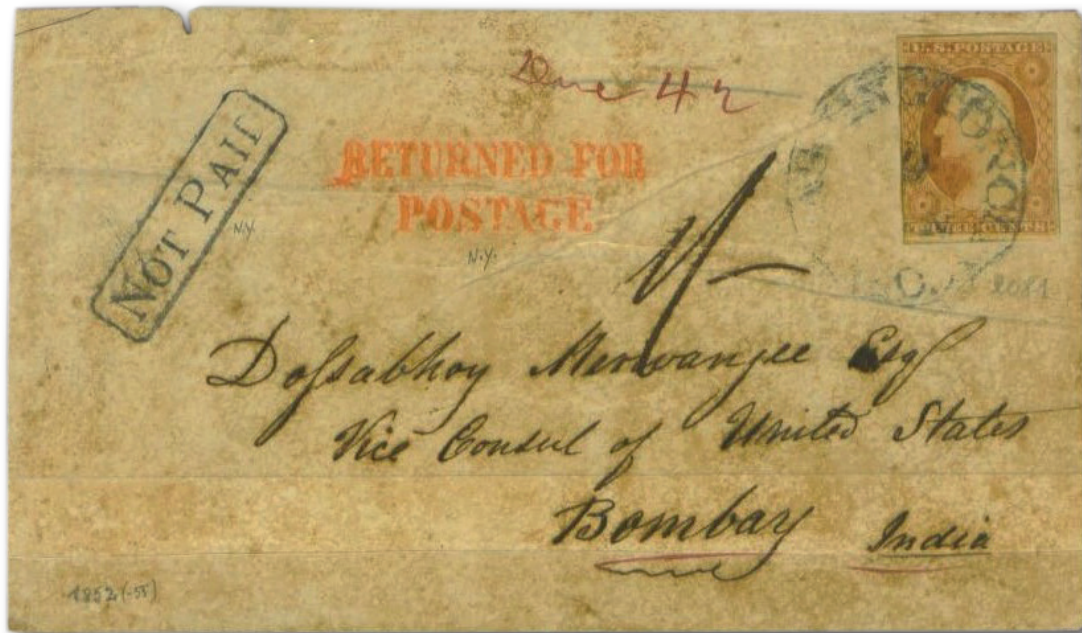


Figure-4: Circa 1853 Cover to first Indian as US Vice Consul, Bombay

First Indian as American Vice Consul:

Dossabhoy Merwanjee, a very successful Parsi businessman, was the first Indian appointed as US Vice Consul by the American Consul, who had left for USA on leave.

This circa 1852 cover addressed to Mr Merwanjee, the US Vice Consul in Bombay, bears only a US 3¢ Washington stamp instead of the 42¢ required postage. It is likely the cover was eventually sent via diplomatic pouch when returned to sender for insufficient postage.

Maritime:

An uncommon service rendered was to assist American ships while at Indian ports. In 1868, when the Captain of an American Ship, *Ultra Neptune*, unexpectedly died during its sailing to Bombay, the London Agents of the American ship owner sought help of the American Consul in Bombay. As detailed in the two letters below, the agents requested American Consul to appoint (first mate) WC Graham as Captain and to hand over £500 to him, which had been previously sent over by the ship’s owners. From these letters we learn that the ship was scheduled to sail to Callao, Peru as the agent requested his letter be forwarded to the American consul at Callao, Peru.



“these couple of hours give me the strength to keep going. You do not know how important this place is to me.”



Emma Howard

EVERY DAY HEROES: THE COMPANIONS OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

The Sovereign Order of Malta was founded in Jerusalem in the 11th Century and is a lay religious order of the Catholic Church and a subject of international law. The Order of Malta has diplomatic relations with over 100 states and permanent observer status at the United Nations. Its mission is to help those in need, whoever they are and wherever they are from. It runs medical, social and humanitarian projects in 120 countries throughout the world. In Great Britain the Companions of the Order of Malta deliver the charitable work of the Order of Malta. The projects, run by volunteers, support the elderly, poor and homeless – there are Companions projects in England and Scotland and university projects at Cambridge, St Andrews, Bristol and Oxford.

Before Covid, the Companions had been quietly running three weekly projects for the homeless close to Spink: an indoor soup kitchen with 100 guests, a van delivering sandwiches to around 70 and a breakfast club supporting about 25 guests. With the pandemic in full swing, it was evidently not safe for either volunteers or guests to continue, and they reluctantly closed all their homeless projects.

Immediately, the needs of the homeless in London began to change. There were the newly homeless – people who had worked in the kitchens of pubs and restaurants, for example, who had had a room as accommodation – were on the streets now with no warning. Many had never been homeless or unemployed before and were completely ill equipped. They did not

know where to turn, and when they looked up places to help them, they would arrive to find the doors closed and the phones ringing off the hook.

Trafalgar Square became a hub for the homeless, and the Council's priority was to find them accommodation in hotels and hostels across the borough. According to Kate Mackenzie, the Companions' London coordinator: "The hotel managers were incredible. One of the managers had had a few students studying at UCL pre-lockdown, and within two weeks he had over 80 homeless. A very different situation. He called them "these people" the first time I spoke to him, but within a few weeks he was calling them "my non-paying customers" – and then "my friends!"

Within ten days of Lockdown being implemented, the Companions had opened a Donation Hub for the Homeless based in Brompton Oratory's church hall. Within a month the Donation Hub was supporting 600 homeless who were rehoused in the hotels and hostels. Some of the hotels had no washing facilities – no washing machines – because they had used companies that picked up linen from the hotels pre-Covid, and these services stopped overnight. Lice became a serious problem very quickly. Toiletries and clothes were needed immediately, plus small items of entertainment to stop everyone socialising – this was during the period when we were only allowed out for one hour each day.

The Companions set up teams of five volunteers and one team leader each shift; they



“He called them “these people” the first time I spoke to him, but within a few weeks he was calling them “my non-paying customers” – and then “my friends!”

would sort through the donations, make up clothing and underwear packs and write up an inventory. They were asked by hotel managers for unusual items like Nicotine patches, because the homeless were not allowed outside to smoke, and games for one player, as the guests were not allowed to socialise. Orders from hotels were then prepared and drivers would drop them off once a week - sometimes they would be packing over 2,000 items in a single day, going to 12 or 15 different places. By June 2020 they had sorted and delivered more than 35,000 items to the homeless, thanks to often unexpected generosity from companies and individuals.

By last summer, the Companions decided to concentrate on exploring how they could open the soup kitchens again. They needed to find a new way of getting food, as many of the sandwich shops and hotels they had relied on in the past were still closed; and they needed a venue, because they could not use an indoor setting to comply with social distancing guidelines. The streets became full of people providing food, setting up mini sandwich stalls and serving food in small containers from the boot of their cars.

Ironically, this created its own challenges. Refuse collectors revealed problems of terrible waste, with the homeless picking up a bag and taking one item, then dumping the remains, moving on to another stall and doing the same again; bins were overflowing and rats were

having a field day in the hot weather. This was when the Golden Square evening picnic was born, providing the homeless with fresh, home-made food, eaten with cutlery and crockery that they washed and sanitised. Guests were often desperate to chat with people and be out of their hotel rooms, some struggling to form words and speak, and their voices croaking because they often had not spoken for days.

The Companions' usual Christmas parcel distribution presented new challenges during the pandemic. Volunteers packed 800 parcels of 18 items per parcel in one day – 15,000 items in total – to be delivered to 15 different centres, stretching from Inverness in the North, Bristol in the West, Colchester in the East to London in the South. With Crisis' drop-in centres changing in central London over Christmas, the Companions opened a cafe from Christmas Eve to New Year's Day – with classic FM on the radio and newspapers to read, guests could have breakfast and lunch, then sit to chat and stay out of the cold weather.

The homeless are always referred to as guests by the Companions, and the soup kitchens as Companions Cafes. They treat the homeless as they would a guest in their homes, providing the best food they can give, with tablecloths and napkins, china crockery and metal cutlery. Covid may not be completely over, but it has identified how important creating a community

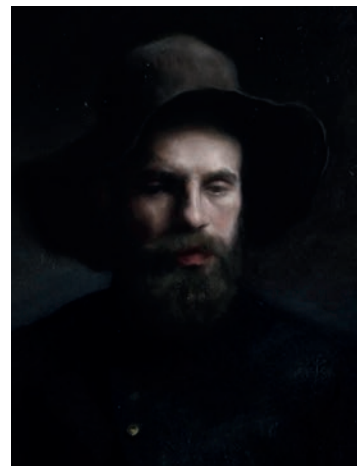
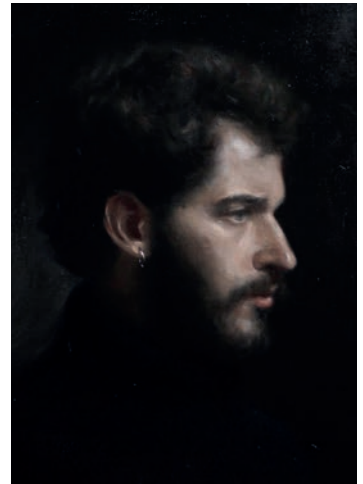


is to the homeless – of all the things they are missing, companionship is what they miss the most – somewhere to sit inside, listen to music, read a book, sit quietly surrounded by people, or chat about their lives.

Some of the Companions' guests have a home, a room, a sofa to lie on, or squat in a garage, but they still have needs, and are still supported. Kate Mackenzie comments, "I was speaking to one of our guests last week. She has a husband and a son, and they live in two rooms. The roof has been leaking for nine months. Her husband is disabled, and her son is behind at school because they do not have a computer so he could not access the curriculum during lockdown. She uses her money to buy medication and a bit of food, but when she comes to the soup kitchen somebody listens to her worries, gives

her a cooked meal, a takeaway for her husband and son and she receives clothes for herself. She always requests our pianist to play Chopin or music from *Les Miserables* and says "these couple of hours give me the strength to keep going. You do not know how important this place is to me."

With Christmas just around the corner again, and a soup kitchen on our doorstep, do please contact Kate Mackenzie on companions. london@orderofmalta.org.uk if you would like to help in some way. Donations can be made on their website, <https://www.orderofmalta.org.uk/companions/>, or join them at their beautiful carol service on 8th December St James's Church, Spanish Place. All proceeds to the Companions' projects. Please contact Maggie Hood Elwes if you would like a ticket: companions.accounts@orderofmalta.org.uk





Emma Howard

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW TALENT

A RETURN TO THE METHODS OF THE OLD MASTERS

As an antidote to the current trend for digital art and NFTs, during December we will be showcasing two young artists in the Spink gallery, both working in very different mediums but equally as talented. Their work will be available for purchase via Spink, with commissions available by arrangement. The Insider caught up with Saskia and Issy to ask them a few questions about their work and the inspiration behind it:

Issy Gibbs studied at the Charles H Cecil Studios in Florence, Italy, where she spent four years learning from Charles and his studio. She received training in the 'sight-size' technique, which was applied in both portraiture and figurative art. Broadly, this can be understood as a process whereby the canvas remains alongside the sitter, allowing the artist to achieve life-size and life-like portraits. This pre-eminent technique was developed and perfected by masters such as Diego Velazquez, Van Dyk, Reynolds, Gainsborough, Whistler, Thomas Lawrence and John Singer Sargent and is thought to have died out when photography and Post-Impressionism came about, as it became considered 'old fashioned'.

Issy believes that it is important to keep this way of painting alive, as it is not just painting what you see, but a time-honoured process which requires time and dedication to your materials and subject. Sitting for the artist can be quite personal and intensive, spending undisturbed time together over many sittings to create the portrait. It is very much a journey with the painting as well as with the person. How did you start your journey in painting?

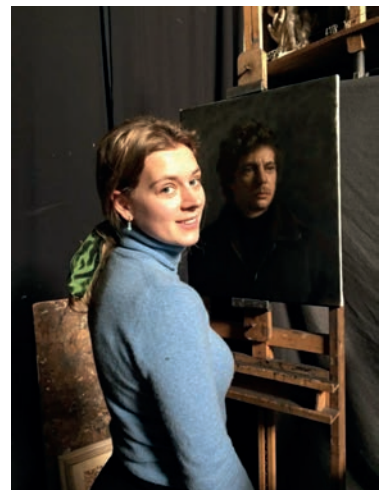
A sight-size portrait by a past or contemporary master is neither static nor photographic. It manifests a freedom of brushwork that comes into focus when perceived from afar.

I developed my interest in art, particularly in painting, when I was studying for my GCSEs, with Art becoming my main focus at A level. After school I had a strong desire to live and study abroad, and heard about this fantastic Atelier in Florence specialising in portrait painting and figurative art, where I was lucky enough to get a place. I spent four years at the Charles H Cecil Studios, learning from Charles and his studio, painting and drawing from life using 'sight-size' technique.





“I paint from life using the ‘sight-size’ method. This is when your canvas and sitter are alongside one another”





Where do you find inspiration for a new piece of work?

I constantly take reference from books on artists in my studio, mainly John Singer Sargent, Joshua Reynolds and Diego Velázquez. I look for design ideas, the light and pose setup, and colours they use together. I also try to follow my instinct as much as possible; however it involves a lot of trial and error.

What is the process of creating a portrait from scratch?

I paint from life using the 'sight-size' method. This is when your canvas and sitter are alongside one another; I stand back to perceive the whole, aiming to create a life-like and life-size portrait. This process is repeated over a number of sittings, slowly developing an impression of the subject.

What are the difficulties and benefits of working in oils?

I love working in oils as they allow me to keep working on a painting for a long period of time. I use the same limited palette as Rembrandt. I make some of my oil paints, using pigment mixed with linseed oil; this allows me to create a consistency I like and contains less preservatives than in some pre-made paints.

Do you prefer the process of working 'en plein air' or in a studio?

I really enjoy painting plein air - it's definitely a challenge as you're forever chasing the light. However, I prefer painting my studio where I can control the light and have lots of space to work.

Where have you exhibited recently? Where can our audience find your work?

I exhibited with the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust, Newbury, in 2018, was included in the Hampstead Art Society annual exhibition at the Fitzrovia Gallery in London earlier this year, and exhibited a piece in ING Discerning Eye Exhibition at the Mall Gallery this November. I was also a finalist for 'Future Generation Competition' 2021 by the Portrait Society of America. I am based in Chelsea Studios in London where I work on various projects and commissions, and can be contacted via my website, www.issygibbsart.co.uk, where visitors can have a deep dive into my journey and see my work collectively. I post my most recent works on my Art instagram page, [issygibbs_art](https://www.instagram.com/issygibbs_art).

Saskia Rigby has exhibited alongside Vigour and Skills Ltd at Anthropologie on the Kings Road for London Craft Week. Her work was exhibited in Japan this year, and you can find a selection of pieces available to buy from World of Wedgwood, Curated Makers Ltd, Olwin Home and Myrtle, Fox and Maude.

How did you start your journey in ceramics?

I come from a creative family and was always encouraged to explore that side of my personality. Visiting art galleries, museums and old churches meant that sculpture, drawing and painting were introduced to me from an early age; and I spent a lot of time as a child making and creating objects, usually out of paper. Later on, drawn by the 3D aspect and the textural qualities of clay, I remember having a fascination with how ceramic pieces were made, in particular slip cast objects and how the materials worked. However, it wasn't until I started my foundation course that I started experimenting with clay: raku was particularly exciting as we had to do it on the college roof owing to the firing process (lots of smoke).

Subsequently, intrigued by its whiteness and translucency I started experimenting with porcelain and china.

“I began exploring the textures and colours suggested by coastlines and the landscapes of Scotland”

What inspires the design of your ceramics?

When I was at Manchester School of Art, I began exploring the textures and colours suggested by coastlines and the landscapes of Scotland. Since developing my original collection - *Coast* - I have gone on to explore mark making, and creating a coherent colour palette. As my forms and colours ways are a response to natural forms, I'm making discoveries all the time and so the designs of my pieces are constantly evolving and that is something that excites me as well as being an ongoing challenge.







“Bone china is challenging to work with as it has an unforgiving memory meaning any mistakes, however altered, will reappear once fired.”

What is the process of creating one of your pieces?

To make a Coast pendant light, each piece is cast in a plaster mould. To begin, I pour a layer of dark blue coloured bone china into the mould and roll the mould from side to side to create a random “wave” of blue. Then, the white china is cast second to create the vessel form. When the vessel has been removed from the mould and it is leather hard, I use a sharp tool to carve in the cliff like textures that run through the blue and white. This carving emphasises the transparency that occurs naturally in bone china. Bone china is challenging to work with as it has an unforgiving memory meaning any mistakes, however altered, will reappear once fired.

Each vessel is fired twice, once to biscuit where it is polished to a satin smooth texture. Second, it is high fired to 1240 degrees and polished again. These pieces are unglazed but as they are polished twice through the firing process creates a very glass like smooth finish. Once lit they produce a beautifully soft, ambient light. I find these light shades are best viewed in small collections above an island or as part of a wall light.

Which other materials fascinate you the most apart from china? Are there any you have not worked with but would love to try out?

All ceramic materials are fascinating to me as they all behave so differently. I’d love to experiment more with terracotta and stoneware using different techniques such as press moulding and throwing. I have some experience with these but I’m very intrigued to see how these would develop my brand.

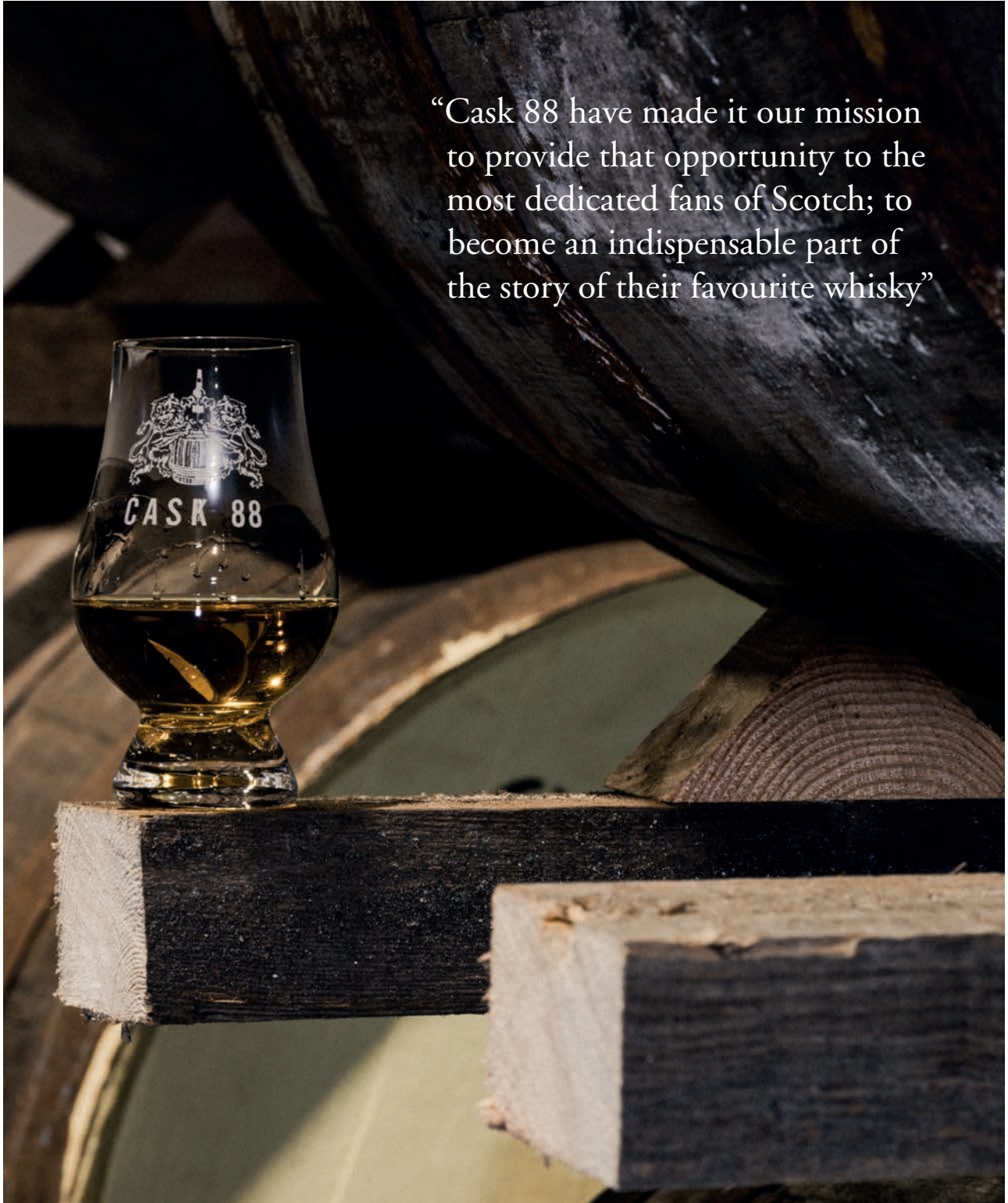
What environments do your pieces suit best?

I try to create objects that are suitable for everyday use in any home. However, I also create bespoke lighting suitable for contemporary interiors.





“Cask 88 have made it our mission to provide that opportunity to the most dedicated fans of Scotch; to become an indispensable part of the story of their favourite whisky”





Sam Laing, Cask 88
Head of Content and
presenter of Cask 88 TV

WHISKY CASK OWNERSHIP WITH CASK 88

Followers of the auctions at Spink & Son will likely already be well versed in a certain amount of whisky lore - no strangers to the intricate beauties of rare bottles of Scotch, Irish, American or Japanese, often witnessing the hammer coming down on some truly extravagant prices. The winds of change never cease blowing, though - and a new way to interact with Scotch Whisky is appearing over the horizon. Full casks of still maturing whisky are making their debut at auction.

“The advantage of
buying young is a
more accessible price”

Buying a whole cask of whisky is quite a large step up from buying even the fanciest of bottles. The most avid whisky lovers rarely make that step - and until recently casks have been something for the industry to handle, not enthusiastic amateurs. I say ‘until recently’, because since inception we at Cask 88 have made it our mission to provide that opportunity to the most dedicated fans of Scotch; to become an indispensable part of the story of their favourite whisky. We’re excited to be working with Spink to expand the reach of our chosen oeuvre to auction houses.

We understand that it can be quite an intimidating proposition. Casks are large, filled with more whisky than one could comfortably drink in a half-decade, and are safely stored in secure facilities that are out of the way and difficult to visit. And while it’s true that cask whisky gains value through maturation, and flavours ripen and develop over the cask’s life, the buying-in cost for owning even a young cask is not cheap.

So let me take you on a journey from Cask to Glass, and throw some light on why ownership of an oak cask, brimming with whisky, may be for you.

Control to you

When it comes to purchasing Scotch Whisky in the bottle, there’s a way to express yourself through your choice of distillery, the style of the whisky or the aesthetics of how the bottle looks ‘pon yon mantle. However, a cask lets you become far more intimately involved in the curation of your whisky as it matures.

The first and most important choice is that of which distillery you favour. Do you go for a whisky made somewhere with prestige and star power, or perhaps the distillery that may not be a household name now, but you know and love the individual way they make their spirit. Maybe the one you remember fondly from that trip you made to the Highlands a decade ago?

The age of the whisky is the next consideration. You can buy young, before the spirit has properly discovered what it wants to be, or you can buy older, when the whisky has already spent time mellowing and enriching its flavours in the cask, and has demonstrated the kind of whisky it intends to be. The advantage of buying young is a more accessible price, though this is offset by the amount of patience needed to wait another 5, 10, 25 years until you deem your whisky ready to drink.

Cask Management

There are many shapes, sizes and types of cask, each imparting flavours differently and resulting in different styles of whisky. Rare cask types may add considerable value to a whisky - but the cask



you first find your whisky in isn't necessarily its fate. Around 97% of Scotch whisky will spend time maturing in an ex-bourbon Hogshead - a white oak cask that matured a bourbon whiskey once, was deconstructed and shipped to Scotland- still redolent with the iconic bourbon flavours and now ready to lend those flavours to a maturing Scotch whisky.

While this is the classic way to mature a whisky these days, the ex-bourbon hoggie is not the only option. Many whiskies are selected for a 're-rack'. Ordering a re-rack allows you to move the liquid from the cask it inhabits into a different cask. This might be to refresh its flavours, change its character, or experiment with something new. Ex-sherry casks are commonly used, but you'll also find casks that formerly contained wine, dessert wine, port, madeira, beer and even calvados. Each of these cask types has different effects on the whisky inside which are somewhat predictable, though maturation is a complex enough process that nobody has the power of perfect prophecy yet!

Safety in Scrutiny

Whisky in the cask is an unusual substance. Far from inert, it changes over time - and the amount of alcohol that is present in the spirit at the start of its life will slowly ebb away over the years. Since alcohol tax is significant in the UK, those who bottle whisky have an agreement with the authorities. Whisky is duty-suspended until the point of bottling, with tax only needing to be paid on the strength of the alcohol after

its maturation is deemed to be complete. This system requires that Scotch whisky spends its entire maturation in an HMRC bonded warehouse, kept under close scrutiny to ensure that the period of alcohol tax suspension is not abused. Since the cask is so closely tracked and scrutinised over the course of its maturation; a cask of whisky is nigh impossible to forge.

Note: this means that when you choose to bottle your whisky, the duty payments will become due - they can be calculated by the literage of pure alcohol in your cask at the time of disgorging.

A maturation warehouse is not a simple setup. In addition to the requirements that the warehouse is HMRC compliant, fully licensed and staffed, it also needs to be an appropriate place to mature whisky. This used to be a big obstacle in the path of private cask ownership, but it's an obstacle that can be navigated, with the assistance of Cask 88. When you purchase a cask with Spink, we act as your cask's custodian through its maturation. Cask 88 are exclusively leasing a dunnage warehouse in Craigellachie, Speyside, where casks are safely stored in the traditional way to mature.

The cask will be held in your name, while we take care that it satisfies its legal obligations and is stored safely. We offer the first three years of insurance and maintenance costs for free, and for £65 per year thereafter. You can have the peace of mind that your cask is well looked-after - and you can arrange for a sample to be drawn, or even make a visit yourself.

“maturation is a complex enough process that nobody has the power of perfect prophecy yet”



Who Buys Casks?

A whole cask can produce 200 or more bottles of unique whisky. Too much, perhaps, for one person, but something magnificent when shared. A wedding, a momentous birthday, a spectacular business event, or private bottles for your own business - any of these can provide an appreciative audience for exclusive whisky. Let me share examples of three very different people who have bought a cask from Cask 88:

Gao: Teaninich 2018. Ex-Bourbon Hogshead

A Hong Kong-based lawyer, Gao bought his first cask to celebrate the birth of his first child in 2018. His son will be gifted the 18-year-old cask on his 18th birthday, after both have gone through a considerable maturation.

Amy Seton: Caol Ila 2014. Ex-Sauternes Hogshead

Founder of the Birmingham Whisky Club, Amy has run whisky tastings at her bar in the jewellery quarter since 2018. She got her cask of Caol Ila to ensure that her bar was always able to serve a whisky that was exactly chosen to match her tastes.

Aaron Milligan: Glenallachie 2015. Ex-Bourbon Hogshead (planned re-rack into Hungarian wine)

Aaron left his native Fife to settle in Australia, and found to his delight that whisky connoisseurship is strong Down Under. He hopes to become an independent bottler, and showcase more whiskies from his distant home to people who are more used to drinking Australian whiskies.

These three buyers all went for casks that were relatively young, in whisky terms. They had the time to wait (18 years in Gao's case!) and were willing to let the whisky quietly take its time before finding its final form in bottles several years later.

If you have the patience to wait, a younger cask now will become a rich and potent mature cask in the fullness of time. A plan made now can reap ample rewards in the future.

“Whisky in the cask is an unusual substance. Far from inert, it changes over time - and the amount of alcohol that is present in the spirit at the start of its life will slowly ebb away over the years.”

THE CASKS

If all of this has put you in the mood to find your own cask of whisky, please browse the cask listings in the ongoing auction (which closes on 9th December at 6pm):

Highlands

Ben Nevis // Unpeated // 27.09.2019

Named for Scotland's highest mountain, the Ben Nevis distillery sits at the foot of its namesake, on the shores of Loch Linnhe on Scotland's craggy west coast. Its most ebullient owner 'Long John' Macdonald would be proud that his malt still is powerful in body and deep in character. This malt has frequently been used to give great body to blends (including Japanese ones!), but by itself it has great richness as well as invoking dried fruit aromas. Estimate £3,500-£4,000

Deanston // Unpeated // 30.08.2012

One of the sparks that lit the touchpaper on the Scottish Industrial revolution, the Adelphi weaving mill in the Highland town of Doune continued to process textiles until the 1960s. The Deanston distillery moved in soon after and has been using the hydropower that once drove the mill to help make their whisky. Deanston is a full-bodied, slightly waxy Highland malt, which matures lovely floral and nutty notes when given time. Estimate £5,500-£6,500

Glen Garioch // Unpeated // 11.07.2012

Pronounced 'Glen Gee-Ree' in the local Doric language, this east coast Aberdeenshire distillery has a credible claim to being Scotland's oldest working distillery - though its *official* founding date is in 1797. Located among fertile and picturesque farmlands, Glen Garioch produces a whisky that reminds the drinker of malted grains and cereal products, though extra sweetness is coaxed out with age. Estimate £5,500-£6,500





Speyside

Glen Moray // Unpeated // 03.06.2015

Glen Moray sits just outside the Speyside town of Elgin, held by some to be the capital of Scotch whisky. Every distillery needs good access to water to make their malt, but this is a lesson that Glen Moray may have taken too much to heart. The Lossie river is its water source, and is so abundant with water that until 2009 it regularly flooded the distillery. A new flood defense now protects Glen Moray, and their use of excellent Lossie water makes for a soft, fruity and delightful whisky. Estimate £3,000-£3,500

Tomintoul // Unpeated // 06.10.2011

Speyside is known for refined and fruity whiskies that may be easier to drink than other malts. Tomintoul is known as 'the gentle dram', even among its Speyside whisky neighbours. Smooth and delightful to drink, Tomintoul balances soft fruit flavours with a biscuity edge. Classically matured in ex-bourbon, sherry and port-finished Tomintouls are also wonderful, though care ought to be taken that a strongly flavoured cask does not overpower this gentle spirit. Estimate £8,000-£9,000

Islay & Islands

Bowmore // Moderately Peated // 06.04.1995

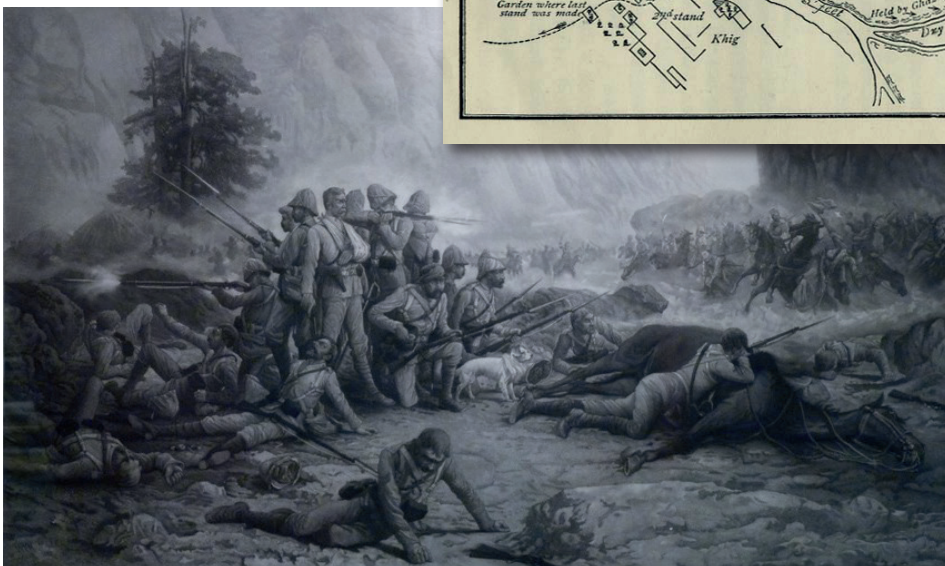
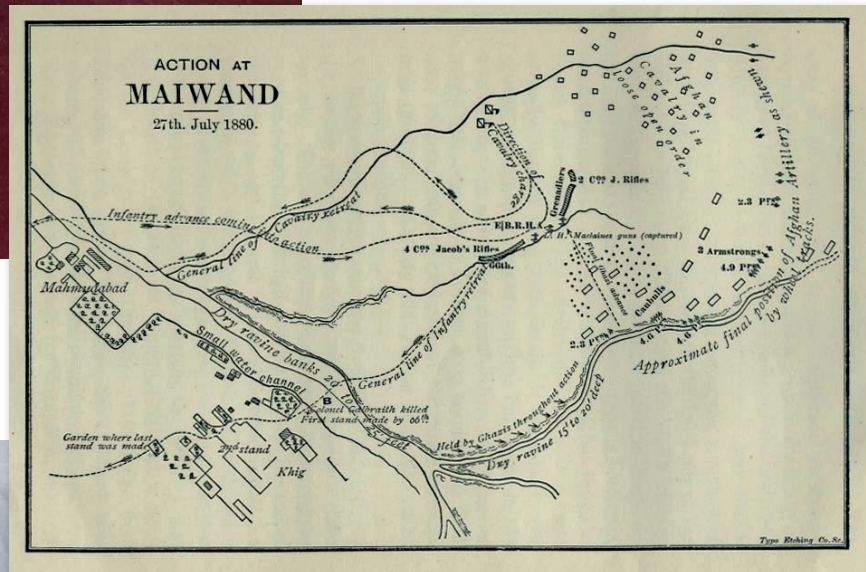
The Hebridean island of Islay off Scotland's west coast is home to the biggest concentration of distilleries per head of population than anywhere in the world. Bowmore marries the quintessential Islay character - which has made the isle so famous - sweet smoke and sea-salt notes, with their distinct tropical fruits character. Maturation in sherry hogsheads, just like this one, contribute to the signature, rich and fruity Bowmore flavour. Approaching three decades of maturation, this whisky is in the same age range as bottlings from Bowmore that are among some of the most coveted whiskies ever released. Estimate £85,000-£90,000

Whitlaw // Lightly Peated // 16.06.2014

The Orkney islands are off the northern tip of Scotland: beautiful, rugged and remote. There is a strong Scandinavian influence here, and this Whitlaw whisky has some Viking in its DNA. As well as a honeyed sweetness like mead, Whitlaw uses locally sourced peat to dry its barley. Orcadian peat is dryer and less medicinal than the peat used on Islay, so the smokiness on this whisky is gentler and more floral. Estimate £8,000-£9,000



“The name of this battle is familiar to every Afghan Schoolboy but deserves to be better known worldwide”





Harry Blackett-Ord

MEDALS AT MAIWAND

Since the news of the reinstatement of the Taliban Regime in Afghanistan, international commentary has often drifted to the historic failures of so many great powers to control this volatile region. When comparisons are made to the British attempts they often conjure up an image of a thin column of red-coated figures staggering through snow-choked passes into the bowl of Gandamak.

But medal collectors are doubtless no less familiar with the image of Khaki-wearing men standing back to back in an ever decreasing huddle on the plain of Maiwand. The name of this battle is familiar to every Afghan Schoolboy but deserves to be better known worldwide, particularly by the British whose love of heroic last stands has populated our cities with so much statuary for the last few centuries.

A brief description of the battle follows, which will hopefully explain why of all the medals from the Second Afghan war it is one to 66th (Berkshire) Regiment or 'E' Battery, 'B' Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery that is perhaps most prized:

By mid-1880 the British intervention in Afghanistan was all but complete; Sher Ali Khan and later Mohammad Yaqub Khan had both been toppled from the throne of Amir. A new, more acceptable candidate had been brought forward and plans were being drawn up for a withdrawal to India. However, in Kandahar news arrived that Ayub Khan, governor of Herat, had declared himself Amir and was marching for the city with all the troops he could muster. General Primrose despatched Brigadier-General Barrow's Brigade through the parched landscape of southern Afghanistan to face him. The two forces were set to collide at Maiwand, some 50 miles west of Kandahar.

The Anglo-Indian Army arrived outside the village of Mundabad on 27th July 1880,

crossing the dried up ravine before the village and advancing onto the plain beyond it. The first sight of their enemy must have been something of a shock – rather than the 6,000 regulars and 30 guns of the Herat garrison they faced an Army swelled to huge numbers by irregular *Ghazi* warriors. The battle began with an artillery duel, with the twelve British guns unable to silence the Afghan batteries. These pummelled the exposed British left, formed of the 1st Bombay Native Infantry (Grenadiers) and two Companies of the 30th Bombay Native Infantry (Jacob's Rifles) as well as the cavalry. As the day wore on it became clear that the ground was not as level as the British first believed but was instead cut through by ravines and ditches which worked their way close to British lines. The Afghan troops took full advantage of this, using their superior numbers to surround the already over-extended British line and work their way behind them.

As losses began to mount and the guns supporting them withdrew, having run out of ammunition, the two inexperienced companies holding the extreme left flank began to waver. At this dangerous moment the main body of the Afghan's Army attacked and the flank began to retreat, exposing the Grenadiers in the process. Almost immediately the Afghans began to exploit the gap and soon the British line was folding in on itself, all the while pressed close by overwhelming numbers of marauding infantry. An attempt by the cavalry to relieve the pressure failed to gain momentum and they soon withdrew, leaving the British without options for manoeuvre. In the centre 'E' Battery, 'B' Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery made a stand protected by half a company of the Bombay Sappers and Miners, under Lieutenant Henn. Despite their gallantry this force was soon overwhelmed and the left section of 'E' Battery was overrun. It



was here that Sergeant Patrick Mullane won his Victoria Cross, running through heavy fire to rescue an injured Gunner and carrying him to a limber for evacuation. Captain Slade, by this stage Commander of 'E' Battery, succeeded in extracting the remaining guns from the teeth of the Afghan army. Their withdrawal precipitated the collapse of the remainder of Jacob's Rifles who broke ranks and crashed into the 66th (Berkshire) Regiment.

At this stage the 66th were the only unit still engaged, however they were hard pressed and, with their formation broken, they were soon forced to withdraw piecemeal over the ravine. Colonel Galbraith rallied a mixed group of survivors before the village of Khig and made a stand there around the Regimental Colours. This force held out for some time in a walled garden but began to withdraw following the Colonel's death. They were unable to break contact entirely and fought their way slowly through Khig to another walled garden where they made their final stand. Despite fierce resistance soon only eleven remained; one of Ayub Khan's officers, described as a Kizilbash Colonel, described their last moments:

"These men charged out of the garden, and died with their faces to the foe, fighting to the death. Such was the nature of their charge, and the grandeur of their bearing, that although the whole of the ghazis were assembled around them, no one dared to approach to cut them down. Thus, standing in the

open, back to back, firing steadily and truly, every shot telling, surrounded by thousands, these officers and men died."

Their resistance came to an end there but the tenacity of the 66th had succeeded in preventing the Afghan advance for long enough to stifle serious pursuit of the survivors. These troops made it back to Kandahar in time to warn General Primrose's garrison of the advancing threat.

Despite his victory, Ayub Khan had suffered heavy losses and his ambitions were soon to suffer a major blow with the unexpended arrival of General Roberts' army after the famous Kabul to Kandahar March. British losses amounted to around 1,000 men from a force of 2,500 with the 66th Regiment losing 286 dead, 32 wounded; the 1st Regiment BNI losing 366 dead, 61 wounded; and the 30th Regiment BNI losing 241 dead, 32 wounded. This was the last battle in which a British Regiment lost its colours, with the practice of taking them on campaign being abolished in 1882.

The Medal department is currently offering a single Afghanistan 1878-80 medal, 1 clasp Kandahar awarded to Private R Simmonds 66th Foot, a Maiwand survivor, for sale by Private Treaty at £2,750. For further information please contact Harry Blackett-Ord, hbord@spink.com.

"Captain Slade, by this stage Commander of 'E' Battery, succeeded in extracting the remaining guns from the teeth of the Afghan army"

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A view of London 2010, the first international stamp exhibition held at the Business Design Centre.

LONDON'S NEXT 'INTERNATIONAL'

In 1890 London held its first international stamp exhibition – it marked the 50th anniversary of the introduction of Universal Penny Postage and the issue of the world's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black.

In 1950 began the tradition of London hosting an exhibition with worldwide participation at the start of each decade (an exhibition was planned for 1940, but the Second World War meant the event had to be aborted, although a smaller exhibition was staged). The Business Design Centre was first chosen as the venue for a London 'international' in 2010.

“The competitive displays
will be equally international,
providing the cream from the
world's top collections”

For reasons that all fully appreciate, the event planned for 2020 could not be held, but the good news is that London 2022 will take place at the Business Design Centre from 19th to 26th February next year. There will be a mixture of dealers and exhibits across two halls, one used primarily for the booths, the other for the competitive exhibits.

Around 125 booths from around the world will include stamp dealers, auctioneers, publishers and postal administrations. Every collector will find something of interest, whether it be stamps or postal history, thematics or Cinderellas, stationery or revenues, plus the opportunity to buy literature and accessories.

Spink is proud to be one of the main sponsors of the event, and our large stand, number 87, will be in the centre of the main Mezzanine Floor area.

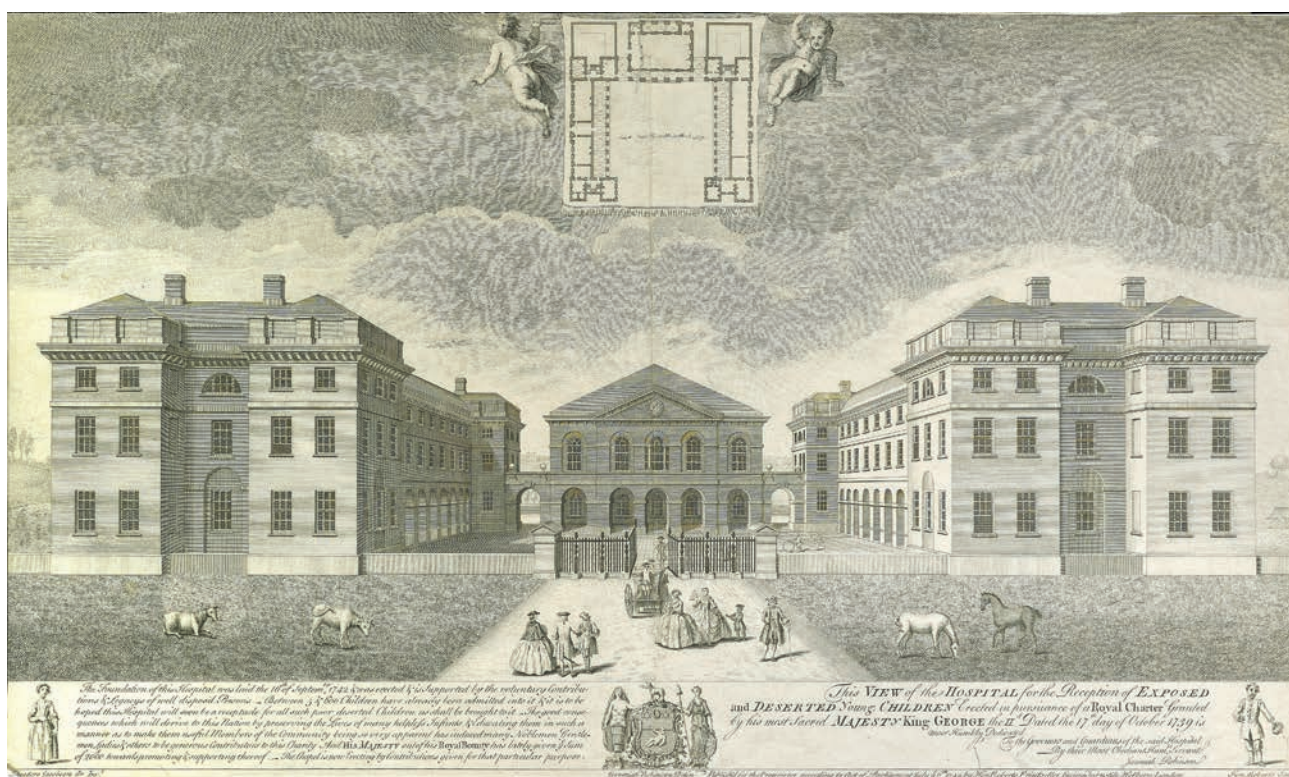
The competitive displays will be equally international, providing the cream from the world's top collections. These will be on display in the 'second' hall. There is a huge demand to exhibit at a London 'international', so to ensure that as many exhibits as possible are shown the exhibition will be divided into two halves. The first half will be shown during the first four days (19th to midday on 22nd February), with the remaining half on display from the 23rd to midday on Friday, 25th February. Exhibits will range across all the recognised classes, namely Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Revenues, Postal Stationery, Thematics, Picture Postcards, plus Open Philately, Modern Material, One-frame, plus an extensive array of Philatelic Literature. There will also be exhibits from young collectors under the age of 21.

The Royal Philatelic Society London will be among the booth holders, and many specialist societies will have tables in one of the large meeting rooms on Wednesday, 23rd February. Societies will also be holding meetings throughout the exhibition in the available meeting rooms.

For details about booth holders, exhibits and society events please visit www.london2022.co. The Business Design Centre's excellent transport links and surrounding shops and restaurants make for a perfect break in London; those wishing to stay can take advantage of the special arrangements with HotelSmart to secure the best deals at convenient hotels. Please click on 'Visits/Hotels' on the London 2022 website to find out more.



Naval General Service Medal, 1793-1840, belonging to William South, reverse © The Foundling Museum



Henry Roberts, View of the Foundling Hospital, 1749 © Coram in the care of the Foundling Museum



Kathleen Palmer and Professor Helen Berry

FIGHTING TALK: ONE BOY'S JOURNEY FROM ABANDONMENT TO TRAFALGAR

The fascinating life story of looked-after child George King (1787-1857) unfolds at the Foundling Museum in an exhibition curated by Helen Berry, Professor of History at University of Exeter. George is one of 221 retrospective recipients of the Naval General Service Medal first issued in 1849. His medal, complete with clasps for Trafalgar and for 7th July Boat Service 1809, is on show, lent by the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

George's handwritten autobiography, *Diary of the Incidents of the Life of the Undermentioned for Forty-one Years*, is the only known account of someone raised at the Foundling Hospital in the eighteenth century. The London Foundling Hospital, which continues today as the children's

charity Coram, was established in 1739 by the philanthropist Thomas Coram to care for babies at risk of abandonment. Pairing George's words with remarkable exhibits from the period, the show tells of his childhood there, and how he runs away from an apprenticeship and is impressed into the Royal Navy. He fights at Trafalgar and spends more than two decades as a sailor, and the exhibition includes some significant naval history artefacts. In old age, George finds dignity at the Royal Hospital for Seamen, Greenwich.

Childhood

'George King was born at Hemel Hempstead in the County of Herts on the 10th day of June 1787 and nothing materially occurred till I arrived at the Age of four years...'

Unlike many babies admitted to the Foundling Hospital, George survives to adulthood. The meticulous records show that George enters on 10 November 1787, aged five months. His unmarried mother Mary Miller had been seduced and deserted by George's unnamed father.

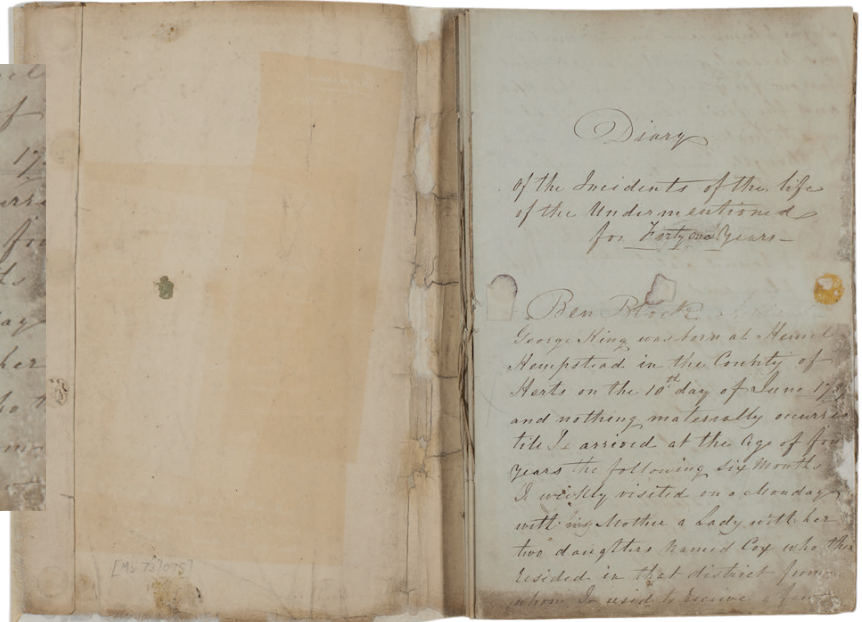
Child 18,053, George wears a pendant around his neck with his hospital number, linking him to the records of his origin and care. As was customary, he is baptised with a new name - his is chosen in honour of the reigning monarch, George III. Afterwards, he, like all the babies, is sent to the countryside to a foster mother who cares for and breast-feeds him. He recalls a happy childhood raised alongside foster siblings and describes Ann Yeulet's home in Hemel Hempstead as his birthplace.

George is sent away to 'school' by coach, which he regards as a great adventure. The Foundling Hospital he re-enters is an imposing building, shown in an early print. Aged five, he never sees his wet nurse again. He wears a uniform, and is brought up in a regimented fashion that includes regular chapel attendance, plain but nourishing meals, and occasional treats such as 'plumb Cake'.

George recalls positive childhood memories, including adventures with his friend, Henry Rivington (child number 18,050). Quick to learn, George is taken under the wing of the

“the show tells of his childhood there, and how he runs away from an apprenticeship and is impressed into the Royal Navy”

George King was born at Hemel Hempstead in the County of Herts on the 10th day of June 1722 and nothing materially occurred till he arrived at the age of five years the following six months I weekly visited on a Monday with my Mother a lady with her two daughters named Cox who resided in that district from whom I used to receive a few



progressive schoolmaster, Robert Atchison. He acquires an unusual skill for a poor child – he learns to write. Thanks to this careful and kindly schooling, George attains a level of literacy that he uses to his advantage throughout his life.

'On the twenty-fifth day of September 1800 I was bound Apprentice out of the School to Mr John Browne Grocer and Confectioner residing at No. 10 Fish Street Hill nearly opposite the Monument'

At 13 years old, George is apprenticed to a prosperous tradesman in the City of London. Trade cards, advertising similar businesses, offer a glimpse of the sweet treats available. Consumption of sugar, still a luxury, is growing fast amongst the 'middling sort' as ever increasing production is fuelled by enslaved labour in the Caribbean and Americas.

Thousands of Foundling Hospital children are apprenticed across the country in the late eighteenth century. England is quickly becoming the world's first industrial nation, with London at the centre of a rapidly-growing empire, and charity apprenticeship is a common way of despatching poor children to employers. In return for a premium, masters or mistresses undertake to provide board, lodgings and 'necessaries' and to train a child to earn a living appropriate to their status. Many foundlings go into agricultural work, particularly in Yorkshire. Others, like George King and his friend Henry Rivington, join the bustling workshops of London. Most girls go into domestic service, although a number are sent to toil in the new textile mills with disastrous consequences for their welfare.

Autobiography of George King waistcoat © Coram in the care of the Foundling Museum.jpeg



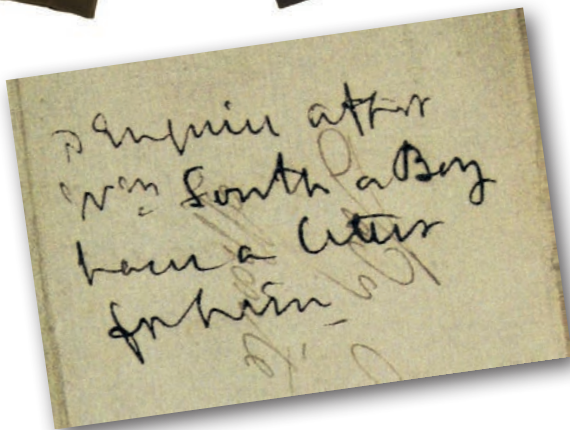
Charles Dibdin, Jack's Fidelity, 1794 © Museum of London



Top: Foundling boy's jacket © Coram in the care of the Foundling Museum
Centre: Foundling boy's waistcoat © Coram in the care of the Foundling Museum
Bottom: Foundling boy's trousers © Coram in the care of the Foundling Museum



Foundling Hospital plate waistcoat © Coram in the care of the Foundling Museum



George has a secure living in prospect. However, he is bullied by his fellow apprentices, perhaps because he is a foundling. He twice ends up in serious trouble. First he throws hot sugar at one of his tormentors, then he starts a fist-fight that changes the course of his life.

In fear of prison on a charge of assault, George flees from his master's house, spurred on by a foundling friend who had run away to sea. In the tumultuous years of the Napoleonic Wars, George pawns his few belongings for sailor's clothes and sets off on foot to Chatham. Alone, friendless and fuddled with grog and tobacco, the seventeen-year-old soon falls victim to a press gang, and is taken aboard HMS *Polyphemus*, a 64-gun 'ship of the line' – built for sea battles. The imposing ship's figurehead provides a tangible link to George - he may often touch it for luck. As fate would have it, the *Polyphemus* soon joins the fleet mustered under the command of Admiral Lord Nelson, against the combined forces of the Franco-Spanish Navy. So it is that George ends up participating in one of the most iconic sea battles in British maritime history, Trafalgar.

A small number of boys join the Navy directly from the Foundling Hospital. Nelson's celebrated mistress, Lady Emma Hamilton, takes an interest in another former foundling, William South, as seen in a pair of letters from the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. Hannah Johnson, Foundling Hospital matron, writes to Lady Hamilton to enquire after William South, servant to Nelson's 1st Lieutenant on HMS *Victory*, and her own nephew, a Midshipman on board. Nelson himself notes on the outside of one letter, 'enquire after Wm. South a boy have a letter for him'.

South's Naval General Service medal, acquired by the Foundling Museum in 2019 in the Spink Medal auction of April 2019, with support from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, also features. South leaves *Victory* and does not fight at Trafalgar – his medal has clasps for the Java and Algiers actions.

The Battle of Trafalgar

'when the Signal was made the French Fleet were in Sight ... immediately the Hammocks were piped up we were then entirely fit for Action ... at Eight O Clock we piped the Breakfast it being Monday and Banyan day the most part eat their Dinner for Breakfast and each man was served with half a pint of Wine... at half past nine Nelson made the signal that England expects every man will his duty.'

George's account of the Battle, the exhibition's centrepiece, vividly conveys the chaos – and the obscured view – of an ordinary seaman in mortal danger.

Nelson throws away the rulebook at Trafalgar. Instead of a crescent of vessels in full sail, facing one another head-on, his fleet forms lines at right angles to the enemy's larger and more cumbersome ships. This enables the British to make forays along enemy lines, firing into their lower decks at speed. A striking visual comes with the Museum's large painting (170 x 262 cm) by WED Stuart.

When the victorious British fleet receive the news that their commanding officer is dead, it is the *Polyphemus* that tows HMS *Victory*, and Nelson's body, to port in Gibraltar. A fragment of the flagship's union flag, which later covers Nelson's coffin, is a powerful exhibit.

George travels far and wide during a further 24 gruelling years at sea and his story is deeply entwined with the wider history of the British Empire. A man of his time, George's views on the Empire are revealed in his patriotism and pride in the Royal Navy, and his eagerness to share in the spoils of victory.

With sickness and mortal danger at every turn, sailors took their pleasure where they could. George recalls his love of life in spite of all the hardship, leaping onto English ground after many years at sea with youthful exuberance: *'I being so much overjoyed and four Guineas in my pocket I took a run and did not feel the ground under me I think a Greyhound would hardly head me'*.

The personal belongings of sailors, including a 'ditty box', pipe, needle-case and whistle, give visitors a window on to George's world. Other items, such as a cat o' nine tails and even a ship's biscuit, reveal the sheer physical toll of life at



Peter Mallet



William E D Stuart, *The Battle of Trafalgar*, c.1848 © Coram in the care of the Foundling Museum

sea. After 1815, George spends longer periods on land, due to ill health. He attempts to trace his best friend, only to discover that 'Serjeant Rivington died on the Isle of Wight'. The death of his former schoolmaster, Robert Atchison, is another blow. Now in his thirties, George begins to feel his lack of family keenly: *'myself having no home to go to, no relative living, I was like a lost sheep and obliged to live as I could'*. He returns to naval life, undertaking lighter duties as a ship's painter. In 1825, George marries, but his unnamed wife dies within three years while he is away.

With an insufficient naval pension and nothing to keep him on shore, he finds work as a merchant seaman.



© The Foundling Museum

“England is quickly becoming the world’s first industrial nation, with London at the centre of a rapidly-growing empire”

America

In the early 1800s, the Royal Navy is the world’s leading maritime force, protecting a vast and lucrative global network of British merchant vessels. The notorious ‘triangular’ slave trade trafficking African men, women and children had been abolished by the United Kingdom and United States in 1807, but both nations continue to profit directly and indirectly, from the labour of enslaved African peoples and their descendants.

In January 1832, aged 44, George is steward on the merchant ship *Celia*, bound for South Carolina. Arriving in Charleston, he hitches a ride south, and sees for the first time enslaved Africans, working on rice plantations. His literacy again proves an advantage: the prospering town of Walterboro is looking for a schoolmaster. George joins in with community celebrations but he does not put down roots. By June 1832 he is embarking for Liverpool on the *Thule*, laden with 680 bales of slave-grown cotton, destined for the textile mills of northern England.

Greenwich Hospital

Once he finally gives up life at sea, like thousands of other ex-servicemen, George finds it difficult to get work. With no proof of residence or indentures from his uncompleted apprenticeship, George has no right to parish assistance. Fearing destitution, he applies to the Admiralty for admission to the Royal Hospital, Greenwich.

‘I did not expect to be admitted ... nine was accepted the Remainder went away and each of us received a note to repair down to Greenwich Hospital ... and placed on the Books upwards of seven Years since and thus ends the Sequel of my Story.’

In January 1835, 100 men apply for places. George is one of just nine chosen for admission. Once more George dons a uniform, a smart blue coat with brass buttons. Following many hours of conservation, the only known surviving example is on display. In April 1845, George is invited to the grand ceremony at Greenwich Hospital, where every veteran is presented with a Nelson Testimonial Medal, part of celebrations to mark the opening of Trafalgar Square.

George’s story has one final, surprising twist. In January 1848, he is discharged from Greenwich Hospital. The 1851 census records him living at Thames Street, Greenwich, with his second wife Caroline. She is 45, he is 63 and his occupation is given as ‘Clerk of Greenwich Hospital and Chapel’. His ability to write, again secures him independence in his last years. He dies aged 70, and is buried on 31st July 1857 at the Royal Hospital cemetery in East Greenwich.

George King was a ‘fighter’ who, with immense courage and resilience, survived many dangers in his long and eventful life. His thorough education as a Foundling enabled him to earn extra money throughout his life, to write his story in his own words, and to live with dignity in old age.

***Fighting Talk: One boy’s journey from abandonment to Trafalgar* can be seen at the Foundling Museum, London until 27th February 2022. Tickets from £7.50, Free for under 21s. For further information please visit www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk.**



Share certificate listing 27 branches



Jonathan Callaway

AN IRISH BANKING DISASTER: THE STORY OF THE AGRICULTURAL & COMMERCIAL BANK OF IRELAND

In the 1830s joint stock banking mania reached Ireland. In this decade alone at least ten new banks were either floated or tried to get off the ground. Two of them did not get past the stage of issuing a prospectus but of the ten, the most notorious was without doubt the Agricultural & Commercial Bank of Ireland, founded in 1834 by Thomas Mooney, a Dublin baker and flour factor and James Dwyer, a barrister who had spent two years as secretary to the Hibernian Bank.

The Hibernian Bank had been one of the earlier entrants, having being launched in 1825 soon after the law had changed to permit the establishment of joint stock banks. Dwyer, it is said, had qualified himself as Chairman of the new bank by *'having read several of the treatises upon banking as matters of general information and curiosity'*. No formal training in those days!

First Beginnings

The first mention of this new enterprise is on 21st June 1834 when a prospectus was launched for a bank to be called the National Commercial Bank of Ireland, offering its shares at the much smaller than usual amount of £5 each (other joint stock banks generally offered shares at £100 each, a huge sum at the time). This resulted in an enthusiastic response but the similarly named National Bank of Ireland was being floated at the same time and their directors prevailed on the new bank to change its name to the Agricultural & Commercial Bank of Ireland. The name change was done reluctantly and an intense rivalry with the National Bank developed.

One of the ironies of this story is that the Agricultural & Commercial chose to model itself on the equally disastrous Manchester-based Northern & Central Bank of England, promoted in 1834 and also offering shares at £5 each with the promise of fast growth and a focus on the smaller businessman. When the Irish bank decided to issue additional shares in November 1835 it did so through the Northern & Central one of whose directors, Herbert Hardie, was appointed as a corresponding director of the Irish bank. He also subscribed £20,000 of new stock, fully paid up, making him the largest individual shareholder. The Northern & Central opened 35 branches in its first year of trading but collapsed in 1836 following serial mismanagement – and thus in circumstances very reminiscent of what happened to the Agricultural & Commercial. Clearly the wrong bank to have modelled itself on!

Although managed from premises in Dublin the new bank did not transact business there, thus ensuring that it could issue notes through its branches. The first of these was in Nenagh, almost 100 statute miles away, opening on 1st November 1834. This contortion was necessary due to one of the terms of the Bank of Ireland's monopoly, previously all-encompassing in that no other bank anywhere in Ireland was allowed to have more than six partners, then modified in 1821 to restrict the monopoly to an area within 50 Irish miles of Dublin.

It is worth noting that 50 Irish miles (or 63.6 English statute miles) excluded a number of important towns and reached as far north as



1st Issue £1 note issued in Limerick



2nd Issue £1 note issued in Roscrea

Newry, a border town even today just inside Northern Ireland. This gave rise to a legal dispute in 1827 when the Provincial Bank of Ireland sought to open a branch in that town; the Bank of Ireland contested this and insisted that a straightening of the road meant that the whole town, not just the southern edge, was now within the 50 Irish miles boundary. The Provincial withdrew for fear of alienating the dominant banking institution in Ireland. When the monopoly was finally done away with in 1845, it came too late for the Agricultural & Commercial who never managed to open their intended branch in Newry.

Early Operations

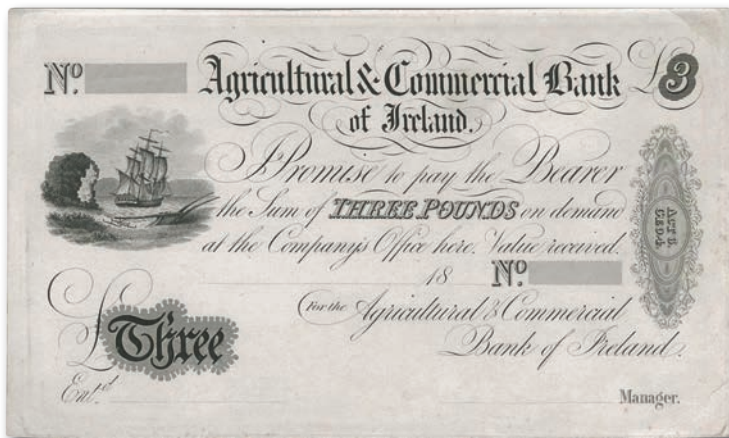
The bank was, it was evident, badly managed from the outset. It rapidly and aggressively expanded its branch network, although its method of establishing and financing these branches by using a local agent and appointing up to four local shareholding directors was less than satisfactory. These appointees were people with local connections whose financial acumen, or the lack of it, never seemed to be part of the equation. The bank just wanted to acquire business as quickly as possible and the agents were suitably incentivised to pursue that aim. In all, a total of 44 branches were established all over Ireland between 1834 and 1836, all of course outside the Bank of Ireland's monopoly zone. They ranged from Coleraine in the far northeast to

Skibbereen in the far southwest. Managing all these in pre-railway times was in itself a challenge (even the Bank of Ireland only had 22 branches in 1836).

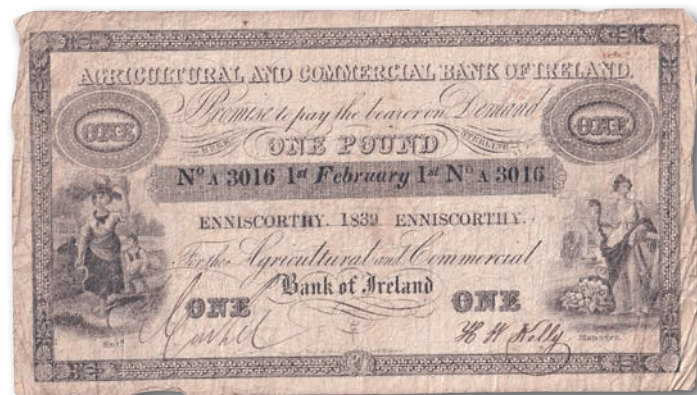
Much of the bank's initial success was once thought to have been as a result of investors and depositors being misled about the true identity of Thomas Mooney, whose namesake was a prominent businessman of some wealth. In addition, another shareholder, John Chambers, who it is said did not use his first name, was confused with James Chambers who was a director of the Bank of Ireland. Research now suggests this confusion was deliberately created by malign propaganda from the National Bank and its prominent governor and political campaigner Daniel O'Connell, with the intention of highlighting the relatively modest circumstances of the leading directors.

The two banks were very clearly competing fiercely across Ireland for the same small pool of local managerial talent and banking opportunities and O'Connell did not hold back in his attacks on 'the wild scheme of what is called the Commercial and Agricultural' which contained, he said, 'the seeds of its own destruction, no guarantee of good management and no security against panic'. It was a 'most absurd bubble' which the National need only wait to see burst.

For its own part, the Agricultural & Commercial emphasised its Irishness – all its capital, its shareholders and its profits would



2nd Issue £3 proof



3rd Issue £1 note issued in Enniscorthy.jpg

“These appointees were people with local connections whose financial acumen, or the lack of it, never seemed to be part of the equation. The bank just wanted to acquire business as quickly as possible and the agents were suitably incentivised to pursue that aim”

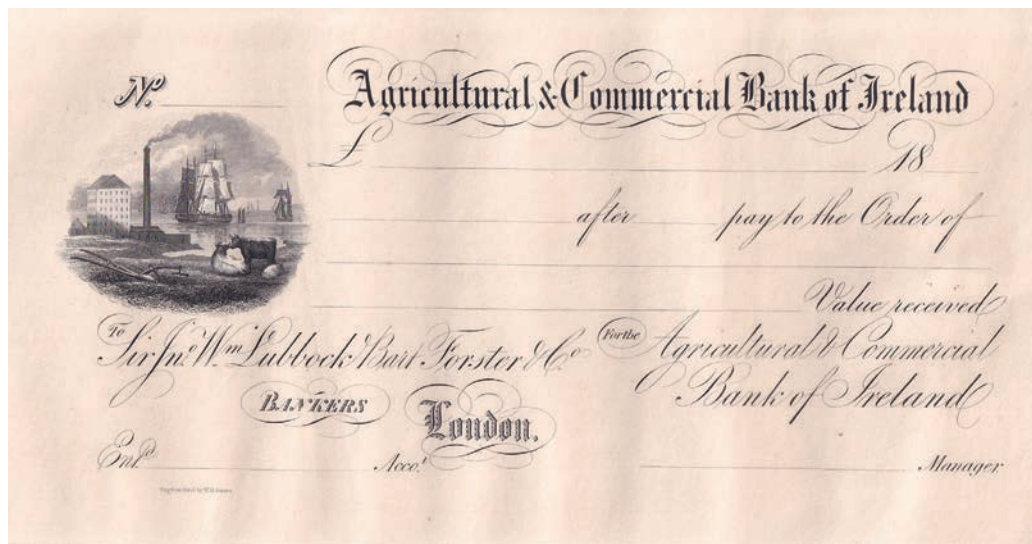
remain in Ireland, unlike the National, whose head office was in London and who had many English shareholders despite the standing and political commitment of its governor, ‘the great Liberator’, to Irish independence. The Agricultural & Commercial made no secret of focusing on the needs of Ireland’s many tenant farmers, habitually discounting their three months bills for sums as little as £5 and £10. This enabled the farmers to hold on to their produce until later in the season when prices were better and they consequently became loyal customers and supporters of the bank.

Inherent Weaknesses

The bank’s biggest weakness lay in its £5 shareholders who had unlimited liability for any deficit and all too often had little substance to meet such liabilities. Subsequently, further share issues for larger nominal amounts (up to £25) were undertaken in England and total paid-up capital reached £375,000 at the zenith (compared to authorised capital of £1,000,000, following the usual pattern for shares to be partly paid, with a commitment from the shareholder to subscribe the balance if called upon to do so). The bank claimed to have 3,000 shareholders by April 1836.

A share certificate from August 1836 states boldly that capital was £1,000,000 with the ‘power of extension to £5,000,000 by a vote of the Proprietary at a meeting duly convened’. It seems the £1,000,000 capital was never fully paid up and FG Hall in his magisterial history of the Bank of Ireland derided the bank for commencing business when only the tiny initial sum of £2,000 had actually been paid in after an initial call of 1s per share on the new shareholders.

Apart from a dearth of capital, the bank had a problem with inexperienced and overstretched management, another factor in the bank’s ultimate failure. Qualified bankers were very thin on the ground, most coming from the better managed and more professional Scottish joint stock banks. There was, at this time, considerable competition for such talent and more went to



A proof bill of exchange by Lizars with the same vignette as the 2nd Issue note

England or the colonies than to Ireland. In Hall's view 'it would seem that the directors were particularly unfortunate or extremely careless in their choice of staff'. He goes on to recount a number of hair-raising stories of incompetence, poor bookkeeping and outright dishonesty (such as branch managers granting themselves large unsecured loans).

Another weakness was the lack of proper accounting, with no audited accounts (at least until the initial collapse in 1836), no precise record of banknotes issued and little oversight of cash reserves. The total notes in circulation only became evident after the bank had collapsed and the notes presented for payment.

The bank's Deed of Settlement was unique in Irish banking, giving extraordinary powers to the directors and containing, for example, a clause providing for the consent of the board before the bank could be liquidated. There was also no provision for forcing them to call a meeting of shareholders (who were themselves given no authority to call such a meeting without the directors' consent). The Deed was not finalised until December 1834, some months after the bank had started trading, and while every shareholder should have signed it, many did not. In the event, this enabled over 2,400 shareholders to avoid meeting their liability to pay uncalled capital, leaving more of the losses to be carried by those who had signed.

The First Failure

These weaknesses led to an inevitable collapse, which came on 14th November 1836 when the bank was forced to stop payment just two years

after it had first opened for business. Depositors and note holders were however repaid in full but many shareholders were bankrupted thanks to their unlimited liability for the bank's obligations. The auditors' report following the suspension of payments stated: 'the book keeping had been so faulty that we were convinced no accurate balance sheet could at any time have been constructed'. The bank discovered only after the collapse that it had managed to put into circulation notes to the value of **£550,000**.

Restart and Final Collapse

The directors utilised their right under the Deed of Settlement to restart the business on 23rd January 1837 contrary to the wishes of the majority of shareholders. They took their decision following a chaotic and unruly general meeting when three distinct groups of shareholders fell out amongst themselves:

- the tenant farmers and their representatives, comprising mostly the original shareholders who supported the board;
- the more critical group of shareholders from the north of Ireland (who had bought their shares when the bank had started opening branches in the north to compete with the Belfast-based banks); and
- the English shareholders who were fewer in number but had larger commitments.

While all liabilities were successfully discharged, little substance was left so new funds were raised by way of debentures issued in London. Confidence in the bank had, however, suffered badly as a result of these convulsions and only 20 of the 44 branches resumed business.

“Confidence in the bank had, however, suffered badly”



3rd Issue £5 note issued in Enniscorthy



3rd Issue £3 note issued in Waterford



3rd Issue 30s note issued in Thomastown

The bank stopped payment for a second and final time on 19th June 1840.

A winding up committee was formed in October 1840 but took four years to unravel the bank's convoluted affairs. A special Act of Parliament was necessary to resolve its affairs and this received Royal Assent in 1845. The bank was finally wound up in 1851. Once again, note holders and depositors got their money back but many more shareholders were bankrupted.

Same Managers, Similar Disasters

As a postscript it should be recorded that the Agricultural & Commercial Bank's management did not stop at ruining one bank. In 1837 William Mitchell, manager of the Cork branch, founded with two others the Southern Bank of Ireland, while Thomas Mooney, forced out of the Agricultural Bank in 1837, joined the printer William Henry Holbrooke to found the Provident Bank of Ireland in Dublin. Both banks failed within months of opening for business.

After the failure of the Provident, Mooney went to Australia where he set up as a baker (not a banker) in Melbourne. He later went to San Francisco where he made another attempt at banking and, it was reported, absconded with the bank's funds.

The Banknotes

Although all the issued notes were fully honoured following each collapse of the bank, a number have survived. There were three separate issues, the first of which was printed by Batho & Bingley of London, while the second and third were printed by William Home Lizars of Edinburgh. William Henry Holbrooke, the printer who had helped form the Provident Bank, had printed both the cheques and share certificates but it is not believed he printed any of the notes. While issued notes can still be found, few cheques, bills, share certificates or other financial ephemera seem to have survived.

Notes of the 1st Issue are very scarce, with only three issued examples known. Only a single note of the 2nd Issue has been recorded, dated 10th June 1838 and thus issued after the bank recommenced trading in January 1837.

Notes of the 3rd Issue were also issued after



Neptune and Britannia vignette on higher value 3rd Issue notes

the restart and while these were also fully paid off after the final collapse in June 1840 at least 30 survivors have been recorded, many from a group issued at Enniscorthy branch. As a result this issue is the one most likely to be seen by collectors. Like the earlier notes they once again proved the old adage that the better-looking a bank's notes, the more likely it was to fail!

The 3rd Issue notes were indeed beautifully engraved, especially the higher denominations of 30s and upwards where the main vignette rather curiously deviates from the agricultural theme of the £1 notes by depicting Neptune and his sea-horses sitting alongside a female representation of Britannia.

Five different 3rd Issue denominations have been recorded including a proof for 35s. In all, 3rd Issue notes have been seen from 12 branches out of the 20 that reopened, including Carrick-on-Suir which only opened in 1838, Castlebar, Enniscorthy, Kanturk, Kilkenny, Londonderry, Nenagh, Parsonstown, Roscrea, Thomastown, Tralee and Waterford.

The £1 note is seen most often, followed by the 30s, while £3 and £5 notes are much scarcer. All 3rd Issue notes recorded so far are dated between February 1838 and January 1840 (apart from a proof dated December 1836). Other denominations may have been prepared but have not been seen.

This short-lived and disastrous undertaking caused much grief and distress at the time but despite the ravages of the Great Famine, it was the last Irish note-issuing bank to fail (at least until the much more recent disasters of the 2008 crisis).



A cheque issued in Cavan

The banking system proved remarkably robust not only through the famine years but also during the political turbulence leading up to and beyond independence in 1922. Today's collectors can be pleased that the Agricultural & Commercial Bank has bequeathed us some very good-looking notes to add to our collections.

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The author is currently working on the second edition of *Paper Money of Ireland*, the definitive guide to Irish banknotes, due to be published in 2022.

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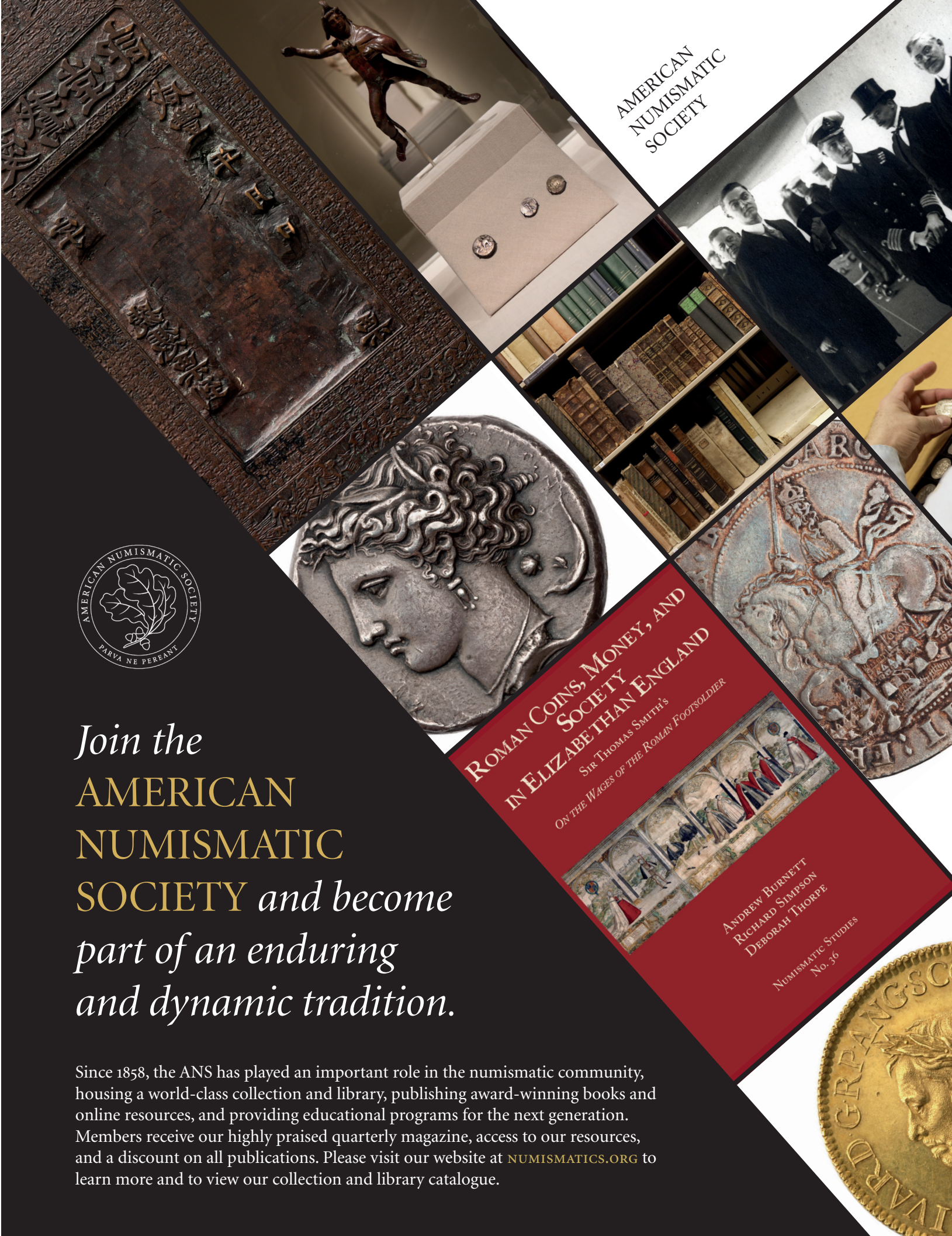
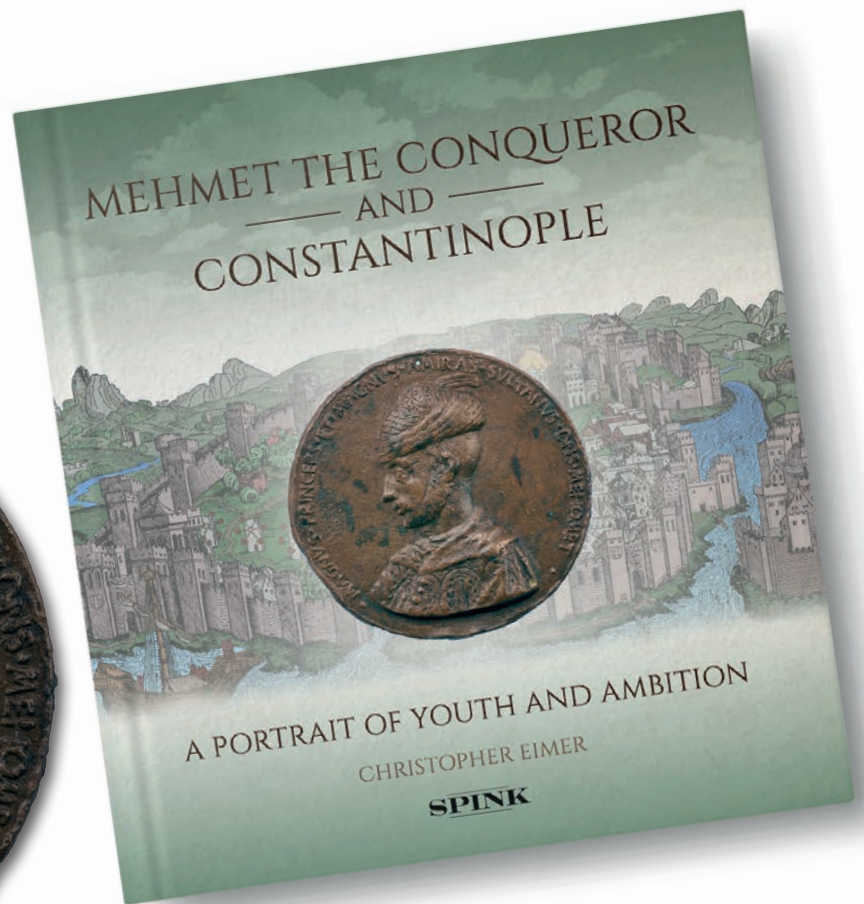


Figure 1. Unidentified artist; Mehmet II, c.1450, Magnus Princeps portrait, cast bronze relief, 91 mm. (author; photo: Andrew Smart, AC Cooper Ltd, London).



“Mehmet’s ascent to power in the early 1440s was to occur in close step with the advent of medallic portraiture in nearby Italy”



Christopher Eimer

THE DESIRE FOR REPRESENTATION AND THE PATHWAY TO POWER

A rediscovered bronze relief of the Ottoman sultan, Mehmet II (1432-1481), has provided an unusually early representation of the man who captured Constantinople in 1453, aged twenty-one, more widely known today as Mehmet the Conqueror (Figure 1).

The Ottomans were a territorially ambitious tribe, situated on the frontiers of the Islamic world in the early 1300s, at a migratory junction where Europe and Asia Minor meet. They saw themselves as the Romans of the Muslim world and a corresponding military and administrative efficiency contributed to their success. Mehmet ascended the Ottoman throne in 1444, as the twelve-year-old successor to his father, Murad II (r.1421-1451). Less than a decade later, the fall of Constantinople would bring universal recognition to the young sultan and the Ottomans.

Mehmet's desire for a place in the pantheon of fame, alongside Alexander the Great and other illustrious figures, was not only reliant on success in the field of battle, but in the faithful preservation of his portrait; his quest for realism entirely in accord with a sense of self-regard and the quest for posterity. Commissioned from artists working in various genres, the confirmed representations of Mehmet were produced mostly in the last decade of his life: the elderly, reflective portrait, taken in oil by the Venetian artist, Gentile Bellini (1429-1507), in around 1480, being amongst the most widely published (Figure 2).

The rediscovered bronze relief reveals that this inclination for physical representation was not a manifestation of Mehmet's later years, as had long seemed the case, but one that finds its origins amidst the precocious, political awakening of his teenaged years; his remarkable success at Constantinople having occurred only a short time thereafter.

Mehmet's ascent to power in the early 1440s was to occur in close step with the advent of medallion portraiture in nearby Italy, its form and iconography owing much to the coinage of imperial Rome. Images of the antique triumph, on paintings and sculpture, had provided Renaissance rulers and other patrons of the arts with a means of associating themselves with such success. Medallion art could now provide a no less appropriate vehicle for graphic representation, embraced as it had been, in its nascence, by the sculptor, architect, and painter Leon Battista Alberti (1401-1472) on an oval bronze relief: the Augustinian representation of this self-portrait having aligned that Renaissance man with the greatest of Roman emperors.

In the 1440s, a widely distributed medal of the long-standing Ottoman adversary, Emperor John VIII (1392-1448), by the Italian artist Pisanello (c.1395-1455), was to demonstrate the power of the medium as an instrument of political content, having confirmed John VIII's position as the presiding head of the Byzantine Church and ruler of Constantinople (Figure 3).

For the young and aesthetically-attuned Ottoman prince, seeking to project his own

“The Ottomans
were a territorially
ambitious tribe”

vision as the inheritor of Constantinople, the medallic form, with direct links to imperial Rome and its coinage, could not have constituted a more appropriate model: the profile portrait of its Muslim subject having been encircled by Latinized titulature in no less a manner than a Nero, a Hadrian or the very founder of its eastern empire, Constantine the Great. Assuming the form of a personal manifesto, Mehmet's collaboration with an inspired, though unidentified, Western artist has preserved a portrait that is unfamiliar both in its youth and sense of immediacy.

Mehmet would return once again to medallic portraiture in the mid-1470s, having failed in the interim to secure the services of another medallist, suggesting the medium to have been one of his favoured forms of self-representation.

Taking the Ottomans through the gates of Constantinople in May 1453, Mehmet would expand their territorial reach over the following thirty years, creating an extensive trading network on both land and sea, as well as an efficient administrative structure. This was to form a blueprint for successive sultans, having placed the Ottomans at the high table of international politics, where they would remain for five centuries.

Ideology remains a permanent fixture of the political landscape, having found its remarkably early expression in this portrait of Mehmet the Conqueror and its vision of empire.

This article is based on *Mehmet the Conqueror and Constantinople: A Portrait of Youth and Ambition* by Christopher Eimer, available from Spink Books in December. To purchase a copy online please visit www.spinkbooks.co.uk. Mehmet the Conqueror and Constantinople: A Portrait of Youth and Ambition by Christopher Eimer is available from Spink Books, www.spinkbooks.com, at the RRP of £25.



Figure 2. Gentile Bellini: Mehmet II, c.1480, oil on canvas, 48 x 65 cm. (National Gallery, London; # NG 3099).



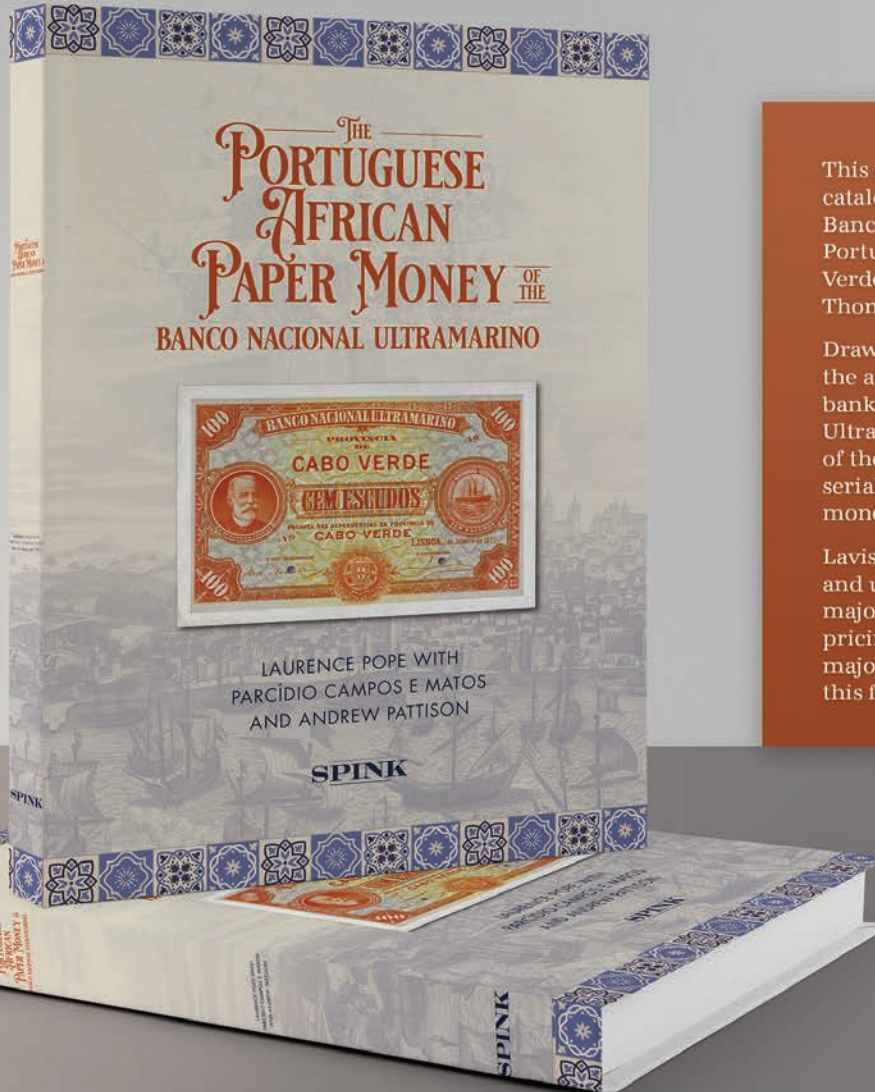
Figure 3. Pisanello: John VIII Palaeologus, c.1440, cast bronze medal, 104 mm. (British Museum, Coins and Medals, London; Accession # G3, NapM.9).

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MEET THE SPECIALIST

GREGORY EDMUND, SENIOR COIN SPECIALIST

To some, Gregory's numismatic journey may read like that of many a collector; perhaps to others it may seem a one-off. Inspired by history from his earliest memories, he followed his passion through the construction of Airfix model kits and a regular diet of family war stories. By adolescence, and with an emerging interest in wider research, he responded to an inquiry made by a school friend on social media about numismatic family heirlooms. Unaware of the proverbial 'biscuit tin', he made his own enquiries and was amazed to discover Victorian-era coins available for sale on an online market platform for little more than his weekly pocket money. He duly purchased an 1898 Halfcrown, and his particular interest in coinage was born.

His love grew from mere childhood recreation into an holistic appreciation of history's tangible remnants; truly celebrating these as powerful physical portals and eyewitnesses to a bygone age. Who held this item? Who valued it? What has it seen? Within weeks, he would be frequenting his local coin dealership in Hertfordshire, and subsequently sharing the fruits with his teachers and school friends alike. Opting to pursue Classical Civilisation and History at higher levels of education, he was able to incorporate these finds within his coursework, eventually leading him to study at the University of Warwick, submitting a dissertation on the meaning of classical iconography on Celtic coinage.

Following the passing of his 'wartime storyteller' in December 2010, Gregory took up a further pastime - metal detecting - pursuing his equal passion for local history. Entirely unappreciative of the undoubted mental health benefits this afforded him, he distinctly recalls the overwhelming feeling of 'saving' and documenting





“In seeking permission to metal detect responsibly, Gregory began honing his critical thinking, historical research and ‘people skills’”

historic finds from beneath his feet. Once more, his passion was transformed: from the simple act of buying and selling, which he had done since 2009, to hunting original research and new discoveries; actively seeking out forgotten moments stratified in time in the fields around his home.

On 30th January 2011, Gregory would discover his first silver coin, a George V Sixpence. Dated 1914, it would poetically bring him full circle back to his initial window of interest into history. Within minutes of this find, he would be stopped by a passing jogger. It transpired that this runner was an analyst working on the *Antikythera* shipwreck, on a team tasked with decoding the now world-famous orrery mechanism recovered from the seabed. The irony of discussing the world’s oldest analogue computer at a time when computerisation was considerably affecting his own life was not lost on Gregory, nor too was the powerful influence of so chance an encounter entirely generated by his passion for history.

Over the next six years, and to escape exam pressure, coursework and dissertation deadlines, Gregory would often escape to a local field, usually to lose himself in the sounds of nature and find nothing more than beautiful surroundings. Nevertheless, within 18 months of picking up a shovel, Gregory would be unearthing Medieval, Tudor and Roman coins and artefacts, and so became the first person to handle these items in hundreds or even thousands of years. The sheer power of their discovery moved Gregory sufficiently to share these finds with his local community. For him, history becomes meaningless unless it is shared and contextualised. Not only did these lead to his first public speaking roles from the age of 17, but also the development of two further key skills that continue to shape his professional career today.

In seeking permission to metal detect responsibly, Gregory began honing his critical thinking, historical research and ‘people skills’ to ensure his hit rate on ‘areas of interest’ improved. For him however, it was important that such pursuits never came at the expense of the utmost satisfaction to a now growing number of interested landowners. His natural gravitation towards honesty, concise and clear communication and ultimate accountability to respect privacy, and indeed livelihood in the case of farmers, ultimately shapes him as a professional today. For him, these most accommodating of neighbours were, as he now more fully appreciates today, in effect his earliest clientele.

This hobby also began to shape the very way Gregory thinks. While sadly this does not mean an improvement in the relative tidiness of his workspace (sorry!) the eidetic qualities of his brain had been acutely sharpened with every soil-found recovery. Today this means he can identify with a degree of confidence and accuracy almost every coin that appears in *Coins of England*, even if they are worn to a virtually illegible condition. Over five years so far at Spink, this has further developed into an ability to recall and recognise specific coins against illustration plates from within an extensive

catalogue archive, in instances even weeks after last being viewed. Gregory attributes this highly unusual and often extended game of 'historical snap' as the key to his ability to continue to present auction catalogues in a fresh and highly distinctive manner, without the expense of the company's celebrated industry-leading rigour towards pedigree.

Unsurprisingly this talent came to notoriety within the online metal detecting community, especially after adopting the pseudonym 'CoinageBritannia' on social media platforms. The great and good regularly contact him about their discoveries and request advice on appropriate heritage recording, market valuation and suitability of auction or private sale. Consequently his photographic memory was enriched by the finds of many thousands more hobbyists, prior to undertaking a scholarship at the British Museum in September 2016. Immediately following graduation, Gregory was propelled into the itemisation and recording of a newly-discovered third century Roman coin hoard, enabling him to experience first-hand both sides of the Portable Antiquities Scheme prior to his entry into the auction world immediately afterwards.

Since joining Spink, Gregory has managed the sale of tens of thousands of numismatic items for tens of millions of pounds, and been at the vanguard of the modernisation of London's leading Coin Department from a quarterly catalogue auctioneer to a bimonthly e-Circular powerhouse, with truly unmissable headline sales every March and September. He has pioneered the use of technology, particularly during the recent pandemic, to enhance audience engagement, in the process earning an industry-wide reputation for his unique methods of presentation and research to bolster market values. During his tenure he has brought from consignment to catalogue, and since 2018 also the gavel, to many internationally significant collections. To name but a few, Gregory has personally curated the Dr Erik Miller, Isladulcie, Waterbird, Stratos, Dr Tony Abramson and Alderman Horace Hird collections, the last of which brought a new house record, 21 World



“To name but a few, Gregory has personally curated the Dr Erik Miller, Isladulcie, Waterbird, Stratos, Dr Tony Abramson and Alderman Horace Hird collections”

Records, and the highest average lot value ever obtained at Spink, all in a sale of just 52 coins! In more recent years, he has also been the chief architect of the prestigious NYINC sale witnessed every January in New York.

Aptly, this latest career feather mirrors another one of his earliest metal detecting finds - a silver Mercury Dime - evidently lost by a US Airman while on an idle country stroll during the height of the Second World War. All it would take for Gregory to reconnect with that moment was a similar stroll some seventy years later. These palpable connections to our past through such workaday objects like coins is what continues to inspire him to this day, especially when he has the privilege of retelling their untold stories – such as the recent consignment of the eighth recorded example of the fabled Henry III Gold Penny, which he will be auctioning in January 2022.

Gregory would be delighted to discuss your collection, future auction consignments or indeed even career opportunities at Spink. He can be contacted on gedmund@spink.com, Work: 020 7563 4048, LinkedIn: Gregory Edmund

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INSIDER TRAVEL: CRETE



‘Its towns and ports are a true melting pot of cultures, from African influences, south across the Sea of Libya, to the Middle East and those from mainland Greece and beyond.’



Marcus Budgen

With the opportunity to travel becoming a reality in late summer 2021, Crete was a superb choice for an island getaway in the eastern Mediterranean, the largest of the Greek islands which offers some 650 miles of diverse coastline to explore. The island has been inhabited for some 130,000 years and throughout its history has been fiercely independent. Since being the centre of the Minoan civilisation, it has been ruled by Rome, then successively by the Byzantines, Andalusian Arabs, the Venetians and the Ottoman Empire. Having formed the Cretan State in 1898, the Island joined Greece in 1913.

‘The use of parachutists *en-masse* was a novel tactic but they took appalling casualties on that first day’

Its towns and ports are a true melting pot of cultures, from African influences, south across the Sea of Libya, to the Middle East and those from mainland Greece and beyond.

The island offers a plethora of Battle sites from the Second World War, which saw the only large-scale parachute invasion of the whole War

in early 1941. The Battle of Crete waged from 20th May-1st June 1941 and was truly remarkable, with British and ANZAC troops fighting shoulder-to-shoulder with their Greek comrades.

Crete is home to a population of around 650,000, with around a third of them living in the three largest towns along the north coast, the capital Heraklion, home to the Palace of Knossos, being the largest. We started our visit in Chania, with its charming Venetian harbour and its old harbour providing stunning sunset views. The old town is full of charming tavernas offering delicious local specialities and first class seafood. Beaches just outside the town itself offer crystal-clear water, but the famous lagoons at Balos and white sands at Falasarna are worthwhile day trips on the far west coast.

For those with a penchant to see the sites of the Second World War, Maleme is situated some 20km to the west of Chania. This was the place where early on 20th May 1941, thousands of *Fallschirmjäger* streamed down upon the airfield and around Hill 107, which was heavily defended by the New Zealand troops stationed there. The use of parachutists *en-masse* was a novel tactic but they took appalling casualties on that first day. Indeed, of a Company of the III Battalion, 1st Assault Regiment, 112 of 126 men who dropped were killed.





Shrapnel damage to Tavronitis Bridge, Hill 107 above

Margarites Village

Today the airfield itself is still in use by the Hellenic Air Force but panoramic views of the battlefield can be seen from Hill 107, the key feature during the battle. The German War Cemetery was opened upon Hill 107 in 1974, which includes a poignant museum managed by the German Graves Commission. The reconciliation between the Allies and Axis in the post-War era is best epitomised by the story of George Psychoundakis BEM, best known as author of *The Cretan Runner*, a worldwide best-seller. Psychoundakis was a key member of the Cretan Resistance, which with the help of the Special Operations Executive ran clandestine operations across the island during the Occupation, being the confidant and companion of Patrick Leigh Fermor. He became the first caretaker of the Cemetery, tending the graves of those who had years before been his sworn enemy, upon its opening in 1974.

The Hill itself is just a few hundred metres above the airfield and commands views down to the Tavronitis Bridge. The Bridge runs over the creek into which the German gliders which followed the *Fallschirmjäger* landings took aim to land; it is to this day riddled with bullet holes and war damage. The Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Suda Bay should also be visited to view the resting place for the Allies who gave their lives during the campaign.

The town of Rethymno is found on the north coast around an hour to the east of Chania. Originally built during the Minoan era, it was

enlarged and prospered in the Venetian era, with the old town, Fortress and harbour standing to this day. The old town itself is a maze of tavernas and independent shops with an array of local produce, pottery and much else between! The harbour itself is bustling with restaurants mainly offering day-boat fresh fish, the small fleet bobbing in front of your table, with the impressive lighthouse at the end of the old harbour wall.

This island is not just all about the coast however, for the centre of the island is verdant and fertile. You could easily spend a day or more visiting the valleys above Rethymno, with their orchards of pomegranates and cherries, stopping off at the tiny villages for lunch or visiting the many ancient churches across the hills. The Monastery of Arkadi, a focal point during the Cretan Revolt to Ottoman Rule in 1866, beside the charming village of Margarites, the centre for some fifty pottery studios which have taken over the hillside village, should both most definitely be on the 'shortlist'.

Crete really has so much to offer, and whilst I have only given a short introduction to a small part of the island and its history, I hope you might consider paying it a visit!

'The Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Suda Bay should also be visited to view the resting place for the Allies who gave their lives during the campaign.'



CWGC Suda Bay



Falasarna Beach



Maleme Airfield viewed from Hill 107

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Well of the Turk, nestled in the Old Town, serving up homely dishes with warming Turkish and Middle Eastern influences

Boheme, a good spot for a cocktail!

RETHYMNO

Taverna Knossos, a great family-run spot for seafood on the harbour

Avli, flavours of Crete set in a courtyard garden

Kapsaliana Village Hotel, a converted olive mill, now restored by a local architect. Stunning views and stunning food.

SUGGESTED READING:

The Cretan Runner – George Psychoundakis

Abducting a General – Patrick Leigh Fermor

Crete; The Battle and the Resistance – Anthony Beevor

The Island – Victoria Hislop

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

SYLLOGE NUMMORUM PARTHICORUM MITHRADATES II

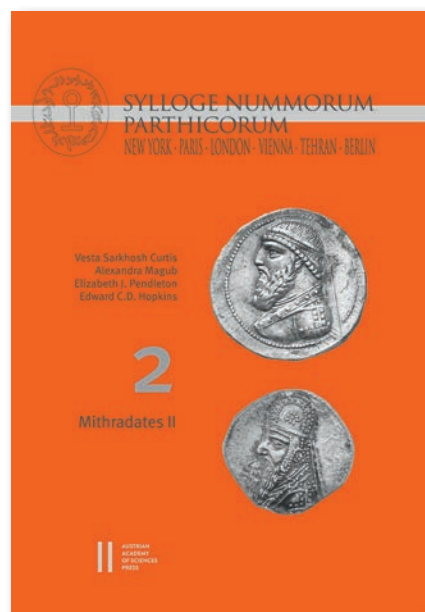
Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis, Alexandra Magub,
Elizabeth J Pendleton, Edward CD Hopkins

RRP €189, available for order here:
https://verlag.oeaw.ac.at/artikel_17938.shtml

The second volume of *Sylloge Nummorum Parthicorum* examines the history and culture of the reign of Mithradates II (c. 122/1 – 91 BC), who consolidated and expanded the Parthian state. In addition to his coinage, the present volume draws on other primary sources, such as cuneiform tablets from Mesopotamia, in order to illuminate an otherwise poorly known and documented period of ancient Iranian history. This publication is an essential tool not just for numismatists, but also for historians and art historians, presenting various aspects of Parthian coinage: chronology, mint identification, the iconography within a broader Iranian context, typology and metrology. The catalogue offers a complete record of coin production under Mithradates II, illustrating and describing 1,996 coins from leading international institutions and other sources.

Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis is Curator of Middle Eastern Coins at the British Museum; Alexandra Magub is Research Assistant at the Victoria and Albert Museum and a member of the international Parthian Coin Project; Elizabeth Joy Pendleton is Project Curator of Parthian Coins at the British Museum; Edward CD Hopkins is an author, independent Researcher, noted expert on Parthian coinages and developer of Parthia.com.

To purchase a copy of *Rivalling Rome* by Vesta Curtis and Alexandra Magub please visit Spink Books, www.spinkbooks.com.



THE LORD STEWARTBY COLLECTION OF SCOTTISH COINS AT THE HUNTERIAN, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW; PART I, JAMES IV TO JAMES VI, 1488-1625

William MacKay

RRP £65

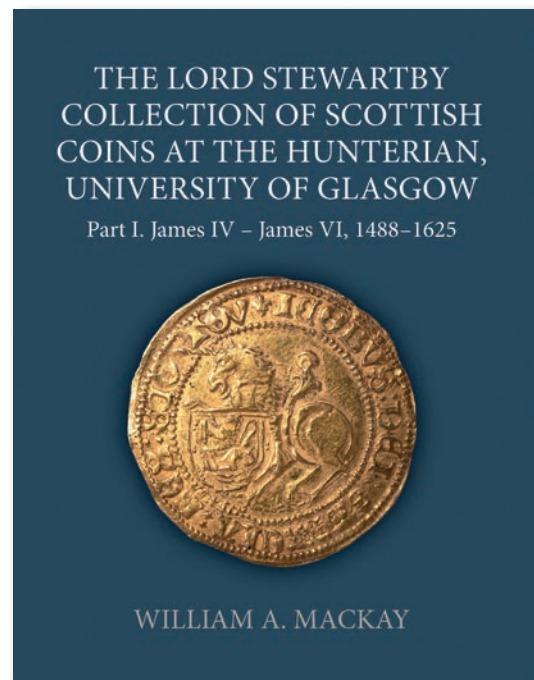
This 71st volume in the series of the *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles (SCBI)* is the first covering the Lord Stewartby Collection, the finest and most comprehensive collection of Scottish coins ever assembled by a private individual. Prior to his death in March 2018 the collection was gifted to The Hunterian at Glasgow University. It details over 1,450 coins of all metals and denominations issued between 1488 and 1625, during the reigns of James IV, V, Mary and James VI.

This is a period of Scottish history that is politically complex and economically challenging but also vibrant with change and ideas, all of which is reflected in the coinage. The presentation of the collection follows the long established format of the SCBI volumes with a catalogue of the coins associated with illustrations of each coin. This is supplemented by a review of the coinage represented in the collection, including a directory of provenances represented, along with an overview of its historical and numismatic context and narrative.

This volume is an essential work for any student of the Scottish coinage in this period, as well as an invaluable resource for collectors, curators and cataloguers.

William MacKay is director of the British Numismatic Society and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He is working on Part II of the Lord Stewartby Collection, covering the coins of the period 1390-1488, Robert III to James III.

SCBI 71 is available from the Spink showroom, or by visiting www.spinkbooks.com.



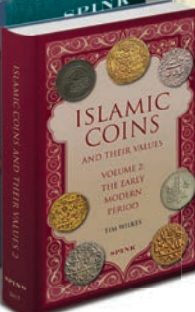
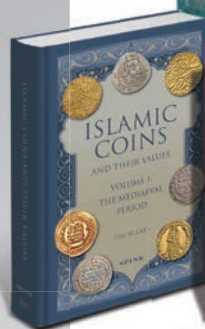
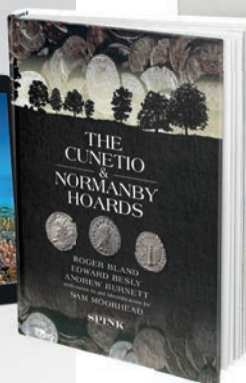
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Tel: +41(0)91 913 42 30 E-mail: info@gielle.ch
Fax: +41(0)91 913 42 39 Website: www.gielle.ch



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SALE CALENDAR 2021-2022

DECEMBER 2021

1 December	Orders, Decorations and Medals	London	21003
8 December	The 'Lionheart' Collection of Great Britain and British Empire - Part XV	London	21015
December	Going the Whole Hogshead - Spink in association with Cask 88 - Whisky e-Auction	Hong Kong	SC001

JANUARY 2022

5 January	Spink Numismatic e-Circular 15: The Perkins Collection of Halfcrowns	London	21157
8-9 January	The Numismatic collectors' series sale	Hong Kong	CSS73A/B
10-11 January	The Numismatic e-Auction	Hong Kong	CSS73C/D
11 January	Bonds and Share Certificates of the World - e-Auction	London	21145
13 January	World Banknotes - e-Auction	London	22173
14 January	The Opium Wars Collection of Historical Covers	Hong Kong	21042
14 January	The 'Shambhala' Collection of Tibet Stamps and Covers	Hong Kong	20019
14 January	World Banknotes at NYINC	New York	373
15 January	Fine Stamps and Covers of China & Hong Kong	Hong Kong	CSS74
16 January	The Numismatic Collector's Series Sale at NYINC	New York	374
23 January	The Simon English Esq. Collection of English Hammered Coins	London	22004
24 January	Orders, Decorations and Medals e-Auction	London	22101
25 January	The Philatelic Collector's Series Sale	London	22012
26 January	The Philatelic Collector's Series Sale	New York	177
26 January	The Lionheart Collection of New Zealand (Part I)	London	22010
27 January	Indian Coins e-Auction	London	22120
28 January	The Numismatic Collector's Series Sale e-Auction	New York	375

The above sale dates are subject to change.

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SPINK UK
69 Southampton Row
Bloomsbury
London WC1B 4ET
info@spink.com
T: +44 (0)20 7563 4000
F: +44 (0)20 7563 4066

SPINK USA
145 W. 57th St. 18th Floor
New York, NY 10019
usa@spink.com
T: +1 646 941 8664
F: +1 646 941 8686

SPINK CHINA
4/f & 5/f Hua Fu
Commercial Building
111 Queen's Road West
Hong Kong
china@spink.com
T: +852 3952 3000
F: +852 3952 3038

SPINK ASIA
Spink (Asia) Pte Ltd.
Registered at 50 Raffles Pl.
#17 01 Singapore Land
Tower, Singapore 048623
singapore@spink.com

SPINK SWITZERLAND
Via Livio 8
6830 Chiasso, Switzerland
switzerland@spink.com
T: +41 91 911.62.00
F: +41 91 922.20.52