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SPINK

INSIDER



THE MICHAEL E BONINE COLLECTION OF PERSIAN AND WORLD BANKNOTES
WORLD RECORD-BREAKING PRICE FOR THE SPECIMEN 1,000 TOMANS
15 WORLD RECORDS BROKEN IN TOTAL
ISSUE 47 • WINTER 2023



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HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
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Winter 2023

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
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Tim Hirsch FRPSL

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Mussa Hashi

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Mira Adusei-Poku

SPECIAL ADVISOR
Sue Pui

HEAD OF CONSIGNMENTS
Charles J Blane

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Thomas Fell Nick Startup Michelle MartiniNeill Granger FRPSL
Dominic Savastano Jaydon Brown
Ian Shapiro (Consultant) George Yue (Consultant) Alan Ho

COINS
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Tim Robson Andrew Kennedy Georgie Potter Ella Mackenzie
Richard Bishop Barbara Mears Kin Choi Cheung Paul Pei Po Chow
Charlotte Ho Marshall Luk Greg Cole (Consultant)

BANKNOTES
Elaine Fung Arnas Savickas Olivia Collier Paul Pei Po Chow
Charlotte Ho Marshall Luk Greg Cole (Consultant)

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John Millensted (Consultant) Greg Cole (Consultant)

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IT & ADMINISTRATION
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Jacqueline Wong

PR & MARKETING
Rita Ariete Louise Rummel Pooja Kaushik Lesley Wu

REPRESENTATIVE FOR AUSTRALIA
Michael R. Downey mdowney@spink.com

REPRESENTATIVE FOR CANADA
Timothy J. Stewart tstewart@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 Friends, Dear Collectors,

The world at large is not in great shape, but rare and fresh-to-the-market collectables have proven yet again to be quite resilient in the last few months, especially when compared to the broader art market.

The return of a two-tiered market

Most affluent households have also suffered because of the Wealth Effect affecting their investments. It had a significant impact on the art market where major houses, whilst understandably trying to put on a brave face, and communicating on the great achievements of rare fresh pieces coming to the market, kept quiet on lower selling rates, guarantees not being achieved and so on. The art market, like the collectables market, is currently characterised by the unusually reduced activity by dealers, who buy very little for stock due to lower sales, and hence an important driver of the market has gone very quiet. And mid-market collectables have suffered, when not belonging to “hot” countries.

We can safely say now that the golden period for collectables which prevailed during Covid, and our persistent advice to sell duplicates and non-core collections to capture these extraordinary circumstances, is now over and we have returned to historical underlying trends. The great pieces, ie historically important, rare and eye-appealing, are still as strong as ever; but the more mundane items are more difficult to sell and generate less interest.

Having said that, when we have offered great and fresh items they have done amazingly well. One example of that is our Bonine sale in November of Persian banknotes, which achieved over £1 million, almost tripling estimates and breaking no less than 15 world records!

In the Spink salerooms

The autumn season is traditionally a very busy one, and 2023 has been no exception. We kicked off in September with our Medals Autumn e-Auction, which featured over 1,000 lots with extraordinary stories and some remarkable pieces. Highlights

THIS
QUARTER'S
NUMBER

15

World Records
in Persia auction
achieving almost
3x estimates and
exceeding £1m
lots offered

included a rare Imperial Chinese Order of the Double Dragon and the valiant Scots Greys at Waterloo, among others.

Stampex and Coinex both took place towards the end of September, and we were thrilled with the remarkable success of the official Spink Coinex Auction, which once again demonstrated the strength of our numismatic community. The outstanding results for single-owner collections, such as the 'Augusta' and 'Eleutherios' Collection and the Wilhelm Huffer Collection of European Medals, as well as metal-detecting finds, such as the fascinating coin of the previously-unknown British King 'Esunertos' (please see Spink News for further information), not only affirmed our commitment to excellence, but set the stage for our exciting BNTA half centenary charity auction to be held on 14th December, about which more later in this piece.

The 'Nikita' Collection of British Commonwealth e-Auction took place at the beginning of October, along with the 9th Hong Kong Coin Show (HKCS), of which Spink is, since the first show, one of the proud organisers. We sincerely thank all our customers for joining us at all the many shows we take part in around the world – it is always a pleasure to see our clients in person, and to strengthen ties within collecting communities globally.

To close the Coinex sales, Spink's first ancient-only room sale since 2000 unveiled a spectacular collection of ancient Greek coins from the 'Kyrios' Collection, and on 25th October we were delighted with the remarkable results of our first Original Vintage Film Poster Auction at Spink London. Bidders went wild for the nostalgia of cinema classics, from the first films that left a mark in your heart to those iconic franchises like James Bond and Star Wars, cherished across generations.

16th November saw outstanding results in our Michael E Bonine Collection of Persian and World Banknotes sale, hosted at Spink London. As I have already mentioned, the auction established no less than 15 world record prices, making it a truly exceptional success, and proving that there is no better place to sell your paper money at auction. Please see page 6 for a full sale report.

As we went to press, our Medal Department in London were thrilled to bring the historically

important Order of Blue Sky and White Sun attributed to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, leader of the Chinese National Revolutionary Army and 1st President of the Republic of China to Auction on 29th November. It was sold to an online bidder for £300,000.

On 14th December we will be hosting the official golden BNTA anniversary charity auction and party in the Spink Gallery, which promises to be a momentous occasion not only in terms of the sparkling event we have planned, but also for the funds it will raise for Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, The Himal Foundation and Medical Life Lines Ukraine. We hope that BNTA members, collectors and dealers alike will bid enthusiastically at this sale to help these charities improve people's lives – for further details on the event and the charities it will support please see Forthcoming Sales.

Looking forward to 2024, we start two e-auctions concurrently on 4th January - The Alan Yuhas Collection of US, Ancient and World Coins and The Mark T Ray Collection of English Banknotes Part II – with the Spink Numismatic e-Circular 33: British and World Coins e-Auction starting the following day. Of course, January would not be January without our auctions at NY INC and pre-Chinese New Year in HK, and our World Banknotes and Numismatic Collector's Series Sales which always take place there. We will look forward to seeing our now reconciled friends across the Big Pond and in China for both these exciting series of sales!

No less than five further e-auctions are set to follow in January, along with The Perry Goldberg collection of First Issues of the World, including Outstanding Indian Feudatory States on the 23rd, Stamps and Covers of the World on the 24th, and The Lionheart Collection of Great Britain and British Empire Part XVIII on the 25th! Please see Forthcoming Sales for further details and do keep checking our website and SpinkLive for constant updates on our exciting list of auctions.

On the macro side.....

We were right in these columns in April on the pivot point on inflation and rates being reached sooner than generally anticipated, but wrong on China where the revenge spending of CNY fizzled

out very quickly. Actually, having spent some time in Beijing in June meeting friends and collectors, I must say I had never seen the morale so low in China since the post Tian An Men mood in 1989. Investment is weak in the economy, and consumption is dampened by the collapse of several major property developers who might not deliver finished flats on many projects, unless the government decides to intervene in the sector. Youth unemployment, even for graduates, is also a concern for many families. Investments both from foreigners and local entrepreneurs has slowed down dramatically and has often gone to India and other Asian countries. The good news about China is that the situation can change very quickly, as has often been the case. I think most of the above bad news can be discounted, and hence the next move is probably to be bullish on China again. But is it three months away or three years away? I am sorry to always be talking about China in these columns, but I really see the Chinese collectors as the big disruptors of our collectables markets, as Chinese consumers have been in the luxury industry and many others. A formidable force for good and for change.

Elsewhere it was a strange year where most households were badly hit by the rise in interest rates around the globe affecting their mortgages and other borrowings. The US10 year treasuries had an unprecedented crash, collapsing by almost 50% from peak to trough. In a way the bond market crash was a quiet crash, as it was slow and progressive, but nevertheless lethal, and affecting brutally pension funds, household investments, corporate balance sheets and P/L statements, as the cost of servicing the debt went through the roof. Like in real life, every excessive party (here an orgy of virtually free money due to the whatever-it-takes monetary policies all over the world) is followed by an unavoidable hangover.

It is very difficult to predict the new economic paradigm ahead of us. In addition to the well-known short-term cycles of debt, equity and property we are witnessing new long-term trends never seen before. How will Working From Home (WFH), that changed the lives of so many around the world during Covid, affect the huge office property market and related activities in these areas (not to mention the impact on productivity)? How will the amazing emergence of Artificial Intelligence in our daily lives affect jobs and economic behaviours? How will the new generations less focused on consumption, and more interested in

durability and personal experience, affect economic aggregates? How will the wars in Ukraine and in Gaza, and tensions in Taiwan, affect the world's fragile balance? Especially when all the major powers are involved one way or another.

Tough to come up with a clear view on all that. But as many industries continued to be disrupted, the peasant in me sees real assets with limited supply, like collectables and agricultural land, as not a bad idea for prudent diversification in asset allocation.

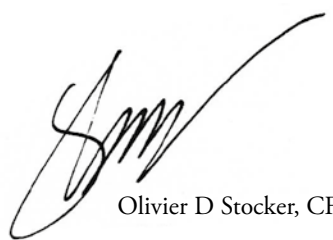
Many of our clients are leading entrepreneurs around the world, and most feel in their bones that 2023 was a very tough year with hard work for very average results. Even though many confess the results are actually decent it was very tough, and often unpleasant to get there.

Fundamentals highlighted previously in these columns are still underpinning my bullishness, namely the silver revolution, with the tripling of the population over 65 years old (from 783 million in 2022 to 1.4 billion in 20 years), the profound changes brought by technology to our hobby for researching, communicating and buying/selling items, the development of Chinese and Asian collectors, and the ecofriendly nature of collectables as a "green" hobby. Moreover, for collectors, spending time with their collections is a great way to relax in an otherwise complex environment. None of my kids have been making any disapproving remarks when I stay home on a weekend to work on my collections. It is not the same story if I fly to Europe with my wife for a weekend or have dinner in my favourite steakhouse!

Collecting is more than ever a wonderful hobby, and it is only down to us to convince more friends to join us. If stamps or coins are perceived as "too technical" and not easily accessible, autographs, banknotes or movie posters are maybe a good way to start a collection.

On that thought, I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New year break with your loved ones.

Every good wish,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Olivier D Stocker'.

Olivier D Stocker, CFA, FRPSL

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SPINK NEWS

MICHAEL EDWARD BONINE: A JOURNEY THROUGH GEOGRAPHY, CULTURE AND BANKNOTE COLLECTING

8th November, 2023

In the late 1960s, Michael Edward Bonine embarked on a remarkable journey that would shape his life and leave an indelible mark on the world of academia and currency collecting. Born in 1942 in western Texas, Michael's insatiable curiosity and passion for exploration began at a young age. His early years were characterised by a meticulous passion for collecting, from baseball cards to geological specimens. However, it was a Boy Scout merit badge on coin collecting that ignited his interest in numismatics. This fascination with collecting evolved as he explored the world, culminating in an extensive and unique banknote collection encompassing every continent.

Michael's wanderlust led him and his wife on a daring Land Rover expedition from London, through Europe and to the Middle East, where he would start his PhD research in Yazd, Iran. This marked the inception of a successful career at the University of Arizona, where he would become a distinguished professor of human geography and Middle East studies. His contributions to academia there included founding the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies.

The tales of misadventure during his journey became legendary within the family, with



Lot 10 [Top Pop] (SCWPM Plate Note) 1 Toman 1896, Bushire boldly displays the English word 'ONE' in bold capital letters encircled on the reverse. One of the rarest and possibly the most sought-after Persian banknotes that ever comes to grace the market, especially as a branch issue.
Price Sold £62,400



Lot 11 1 Toman, Teheran, 1st January 1896. Belonging to the first series of 1 Toman notes (1890-1896) and does not feature the lion, instead displaying in English 'ONE' in bold capital letters encircled on the reverse.
Price Sold £62,400



Lot 23 [Top Pop] Issued 3 Tomans, Teheran, 1900, right vignette features a portrait of Shah Nasr-ed-Din in traditional Persian military uniform with fez. Printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Company. Incredibly scarce!

Price Sold £25,200



Lot 36 10 Tomans, Tabriz, 1905, "Payable at Tabriz only" Banknote of Captivating Beauty!

Price Sold £22,800



Lot 38 20 Tomans, Yazd, 1913. Michael's pursuit of knowledge developed to a deep connection with the Iranian city of Yazd (formerly known as Yezd) In seldom cases it could be said that a banknote represents much more cultural and historical significance than it appears from observing its nominal value, and this 20 Tomans is no doubt one of those examples!

Sold Price £34,800



Lot 41 [Top Pop] Issued 25 Tomans, 1908, Printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Company, unfathomably rare as issued note!

Price Sold £84,000



Lot 44 Specimen 500 Tomans, serial number range K00001-00500 indicates that this is the mostly adopted design and colour scheme used for 500 Tomans!
Sold Price £33,600



Lot 45 Specimen 1000 Tomans, serial number L00001-L00500, only 600 issued notes were ever printed.
 The holy grail and the pinnacle denomination of "The Qajar Set". Less than a handful notes believed to be extant makes it an extreme rarity, and its mesmerising beauty a true delight to one's eyes - especially in such pristine condition
Sold Price £78,000



Lot 107 [Top Pop] Issued 50 Tomans, Teheran, 1924, "Payable only in Tehran". The date stamp overlaps the portrait of Naser al-Din Shah. Phenomenal Rarity!
Sold Price £32,400



Lot 109 [Top Pop] Issued 100 Tomans, Teheran, 1926, this exceptionally rare 100 Tomans 2nd series banknote from Teheran is the highest denomination within the Imperial Bank of Persia's second series. A true rarity, with appearances for sale being a seldom-seen event. When they do emerge, the offered notes often pale in comparison to this fantastic condition!

Sold Price £62,400

“As the gavel fell
and the bidding
concluded, it marked
one of those rare
moments in a
collector’s lifetime”

anecdotes including the ropes snapping on the Land Rover whilst on a ferry in Greece and Michael narrowly escaping disaster. This daring voyage created enduring memories which were lovingly shared for over five decades. One of Michael’s notable tales is that of a trip to Transnistria. During a University of Arizona summer Voyage of Discovery trip, he led a group to this dissonant region and in a characteristic move slipped away, effectively disappearing to ensure his group had more time to explore. It is a typical Michael Bonine story, reflecting his dedication to providing enriching experiences for his students.

Michael’s love for travel, diverse cultures and landscapes is evident from his extensive currency collection. Among the treasures of his collection are banknotes from the Imperial Bank of Persia; his meticulous research and detailed studies of the 18 denominations printed for the 28 branches culminated in the authoritative monograph “Banknotes of the Imperial Bank of Persia,” published by the American Numismatic Society in 2016. This work earned him the Numismatic Literary Guild Book of the Year Award.

In 2011, after a nine-month battle with

cancer, Michael left a legacy of exploration, academia and a unique collection that now has new custodians. As a tribute to his legacy the family recently unveiled this exceptional collection, and on 16th November Spink had the privilege of offering the Michael Edward Bonine Collection of Persian and World Banknotes for sale, marking a momentous occasion in the field of numismatics. The entire Banknotes team felt a profound honour in being chosen to orchestrate this esteemed auction.

The auction’s opening speech acknowledged the thrill and adventurous spirit woven into the fabric of Michael’s life, evidenced by a kidnapping in Istanbul and slipping away from his tour guide during the visit to Transnistria, all in pursuit of his passion for banknotes. As the gavel fell and the bidding concluded, it marked one of those rare moments in a collector’s lifetime. It was the culmination of half a century of dedication resulting in a collection with intricate and barely known varieties that leave even the most sophisticated collectors in awe.

In bidding farewell to Michael’s collection, the auction recognised not just the notes’ monetary value, but his strong and courageous character reflected in the banknote collection he built. Those who interacted with him remember him as an exceptional, curious and caring person who always encouraged discovery, echoing his timeless advice: “Go, explore the world!”



5393/313 Sale/lot: 23888/x 117 500 Rials, ND (1934), In the dynamic landscape of 1920s Iran, Bank Melli Iran emerged as a pivotal player, coinciding with the transformative period marked by the ascension of Reza Shah Pahlavi to power in 1925.

Price Sold £24,000

Note from Arnas Savickas, Global Coordinator Banknotes – The Michael E Bonine Collection of Persian and World Banknotes Auction CEO

As I stood amidst the hushed reverence of Spink's auction room, a sense of profound accomplishment washed over me. For the past three months our team, with unwavering dedication and an acute attention to detail, had been entrusted with the monumental task of showcasing Michael Edward Bonine's extraordinary collection. It was a responsibility we accepted with great honour, fully aware that each piece represented not just a currency, but a fragment of history and a testament to a life dedicated to exploration and academia.

Throughout the weeks leading up to the auction, every day was a journey through the vibrant tapestry of Michael's adventures. We meticulously prepared, ensuring that the full spectrum of his collection was presented in vivid detail. The anticipation within the walls of Spink was tangible, as we curated each item, knowing we were about to unveil a treasure trove of numismatic history.

The auction itself was a momentous, historic occasion. Each time the gavel descended, marking the sale of a lot, it represented much more than the mere exchange of a banknote; it was the culmination of a life's passion, a legacy being honoured. The achievement of 15

world record prices was not just a remarkable feat; it was a resounding affirmation of the collection's extraordinary worth and a tribute to Michael's enduring legacy.

This event undeniably demonstrated to the world the strength and depth of the Spink brand – it was a testament to our commitment to excellence and passion for preserving and celebrating numismatic history. Following the auction, the excitement and discussions extended well into the night. I found myself deeply engaged in conversations about the incredible success of the auction well into the early hours of the morning. It was a night where the spirit of camaraderie and shared passion amongst collectors and enthusiasts shone brightly.

In bidding farewell to this remarkable collection, I am filled with pride and awe at what we have collectively achieved. This auction was more than just a success; it was a celebration of a life dedicated to the pursuit of numismatic excellence, a sentiment echoed in Michael's timeless advice above: "Go, explore the world!"

I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the auction, for their enthusiasm, their contributions and their shared appreciation of this unique collection. Together, we have not only honoured a remarkable legacy but also inspired a continued pursuit of discovery and excellence in the world of numismatics.

SPINK NEWS

PHILATELIC FRIENDS

8th November, 2023

Tim Hirsch was in Singapore on 8th November 2023 and hosted a drinks party for philatelic friends at the Hilton Hotel, 333 Orchard Road, in the Gingerlily bar. Several of his guests are pictured below, from left to right: Tay Peng Hian; Henry Ong; Vincent Ong; Chang Kok Kay; Richard Hale; Frank Chiew; Tim Hirsch; Graeme Robertson.



ORDERS, DECORATIONS AND MEDALS

London, 29th November 2023

Shortly before we went to press, the Medal Department held their final room Auction of 2023 in the London Gallery. As ever, excitement and anticipation were high. The Auction began with the remarkable Order of Blue Sky and White Sun attributed to Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek, leader of the Chinese National Revolutionary Army and 1st President of the Republic of China. That sold to an online bidder for £300,000.

The Single Campaign Medals was headed by a good run of multi-clasp Military General Service Medals, which featured an impressive array on offer awarded to the 94th (Scotch Brigade) & 88th (Connaught Rangers) Regiment of Foot. Many of these went well above the Estimates with Lots 19 & 20, both 11-clasp awards to the Connaught Rangers both being sold for a Hammer price of £5,500 each. Lot 22, the Second Mahratta War Medal awarded to Sergeant John Rea, 94th Foot (Scotch Brigade), reached a Hammer price of £9,500.

Another highlight in the Singles was Lot 56, the China Medal awarded to W Cowan, Office of Works, who was Architect to the British Legation at Peking during the Defence of Legations in 1900; he served as a Volunteer Civilian in the Legation Guard during those famous days. His Medal and archive sold for a Hammer price of £10,000.

The back cover Lot on our catalogue was Lot 59, the important Great War Bronze Memorial Plaque awarded to Sub-Lieutenant Rupert Brooke, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve & Royal Naval Division. Ranking highly in the first division of Poets to emerge during the Great War, he had excelled whilst at Cambridge University and thrived in that heady environment which allowed him to grow and experiment in all aspects of his life; a self-proclaimed bisexual, Brooke had lost his virginity in a homosexual liaison before embarking on several explosive affairs which



Lot 22



Lot 59



Lot 12



Lot 316

saw him crossing paths with several key players in the Bloomsbury Group - WB Yeats considered that he was '...the most Handsome man in England'. A veteran of the Defence of Antwerp in October 1914, Brooke wrote his name into history with his series of Sonnets before tragically succumbing to blood poisoning off Gallipoli on St George's Day 1915; just three weeks prior his finest work, *The Soldier*, had been read aloud on Easter Day at St Paul's Cathedral, the words so powerful they latterly brought a Field Marshal to tears. This Lot sold for a Hammer price of £21,000, which set a new World Record for a Memorial Plaque for anybody who was not the recipient of the Victoria Cross.

A good offering of Campaign Groups and Pairs all sold well and included famous stories like the Charge of Light Brigade and a good number of well-researched groups for the opening months of the Great War.

The special collections allowed light to be thrown onto a terrific collection of Crimean War Medals, Korean War Medals from the Collection of Brigadier Brian Parritt CBE and the awards of Chauffeur Callender. The Collection of Korean War Medals was consigned by Brigadier Parritt, himself a veteran of the conflict, who served as a young Officer with the Royal Artillery and was wounded in action. For the past 70 years, he has been collecting Medals related to the conflict. Half of the gallery was given over to displaying Medals from his collection to be displayed for the General Public and visitors to Spink in the week prior to the Auction.

The section of Awards for Gallant or Distinguished Service included several remarkable results. The highest result in the section was Lot 316, our Front Cover Lot, the historically important immediate 1943 'Operation Chastise' DFC group of five awarded to Flight Lieutenant EC 'Johnnie' Johnson, No 617 (Dambuster) Squadron, Royal Air Force. Consigned by his family, the Lot



was accompanied by a full archive including flying log books, photographs and even the very arming fork from the Upkeep which he so skilfully delivered on 17th May 1943. Having begun his career with a full Tour in No 50 Squadron in the crew of Sergeant (later Flight Lieutenant) LG 'Les' Knight, Royal Australian Air Force, Johnson soon established himself as a Bomb Aimer of considerable skill, being marked out as a member of an 'Ace Crew' and gaining early appointment as Squadron Bombing Leader; the outstanding ability of the crew was recognised and they were soon recruited for the Dams Raid by Guy Gibson, under whom Johnson had served earlier in his career. Considered one of the 'grandads of the Squadron', Johnson soon made a valuable contribution to the overall operation when inventing the 'Johnson Sight,' which would be used to great effect to provide the precise delivery of the new invention of Barnes Wallis - namely his bouncing bomb.

On that famous night Johnson was part of the main Strike Force under Gibson himself and was a witness to the breaching of the Möhne; his opportunity soon presented itself when Knight's crew were called to centre stage. They made several low-level dummy runs into the Eder Dam, each pass being a hair-raising event of high danger due to the steep climb required to bring the aircraft away from the surrounding

terrain; their final run was pitch-perfect and Johnson delivered his Upkeep with total precision to score the direct hit that breached the Eder Dam, earning his immediate DFC in the process and also keeping a remarkable souvenir from that night. Recovered from '...the biggest party of all time', Johnson would be required to take to his parachute to save his life during the costly raid on the Dortmund-Ems Canal (Operation Garlic) in September 1943, making his way back to London after assistance from the good folk of Holland, Belgium and France and their underground networks.

Anticipation for the Lot was extremely high with good press coverage in the days and weeks before the Auction. Our gallery was full and with standing room only for the entirety of the Gallantry Section. After a long bidding process, I was finally able to bring the Hammer down at £105,000, selling the group to a telephone operated by Robert. It had seen numerous different bidders who were online, via commission bids and ultimately on the phone. On an estimate of £50,000-70,000, it is fair to say that we were thrilled to have handled such a remarkable story and to have been able to be the custodians of the story of this gallant airman.



Lot 245



“Croft had twice ignored perfectly acceptable ‘Blighties’ to remain in the thick of the action and earned the DSO four times over”

That was certainly not the only strong result of the day, for the inside front cover item, Lot 245 had already come. It was another group on that day that was sold by order of the family, this time the unique 1935 CB, Great War CMG, DSO and Three Bars group of eleven awarded to Brigadier-General WD Croft, Scottish Rifles (Cameronians) and Royal Scots. Croft cut his teeth on secondment in Nigeria, earning his first Medal & clasp - besides surviving being severely wounded by a poison arrow to the hand in a tense bush action; he thence had a truly remarkable Great War, rising to command his Battalion - crossing paths with Winston Churchill in the trenches along the way - and thence the 27th Infantry Brigade in the 9th (Scottish) Division, leaving an important first-hand account of their famous actions.

Croft had twice ignored perfectly acceptable ‘Blighties’ to remain in the thick of the action and earned the DSO four times over, a feat

achieved by only 16 men in history to date, latterly becoming Commandant of the Royal Tank Corps and commanding a Brigade during the Mohmand 1933 operations; he returned to the fold during the Second World War as a Group Commander in the Cornish Home Guard and earned the ‘Silver Fox’ award for services to the Scouts. Estimated at £15,000-20,000, again it was to be a telephone bidder that prevailed. This time it was Harry who was able to operate the winning bid of £42,000 for his client to beat the commission bid that had been left on my Auctioneers Book.

It was a pleasure that so many bidders and families joined us during the day of the Auction. Afterwards we also hosted another of the Department’s infamous drinks party and exhibitions. It was a fine evening during which a jolly crowd enjoyed viewing the displays alongside meeting friends old and new. Plans are well underway for our next e-Auction in January and the first Room Auction of 2024, which will take place in April.

SPINK NEWS

SPINK FIND OF THE YEAR!

2nd September, 2023

On the first weekend in September – notable for being the warmest one we had experienced all summer! – the Spink team attended the Rodney Cook Memorial Rally for the second year running, where Senior Specialist Greg Edmund conducted a hotly competitive charity auction and announced the winner of our inaugural Find of the Year competition.

After a full week of narrowing down the hundreds of entries to a longlist, the judges of the competition debated for a full day the merits of those entries and compiled a final shortlist of 12, from which it seemed impossible to choose just one winner.

Therefore the decision was made to split the overall prize, awarding a cash lump sum to the two worthy winners and a selection of Spink artefacts and goodies to the three runners up.

The first of our joint winners, a broad-struck Quarter-Stater inscribed ESUNERTOS (c. 50-30 BC), submitted by Lewis Fudge in March of 2023, was described by Dr John Sills and Dr Daphne Nash Briggs as ‘one of the most important Iron Age discoveries in decades’.

Esunertos is a most unexpected but welcome addition to our extremely limited corpus of early inscribed native Iron Age British coinage. To date, he is known from only three coins found in the vicinity of Danebury hill fort since the early 1980s. He is the story of missed opportunity, having been previously discounted as an uninscribed issue of the Belgae tribe. However, it would take Lewis’s discovery and the tenacity of Senior Spink Coin Specialist Gregory Edmund to confirm the full reading of his name, much like the discovery of the Alton hoard achieved in confirming Tincomarus’ name in 1996.

Previously unrecorded in the British archaeological



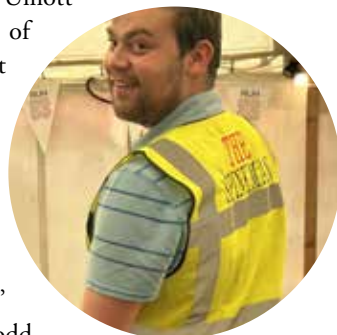
record, Esunertos translates as “Mighty as the God Esos” and has been documented on a few Romano-Gallic inscriptions dating to the 1st Century AD, including the ‘Le pilier des Nautes’ (‘Pillar of the Boatmen’) recovered from modern-day Paris. Etymologically, his name is indicative of a Belgic elder, tribal chieftain or possibly even rival to contemporary ‘client-king’ Commios.

Lewis’s find sold at the Spink COINEX Auction on 28th September 2023 for £17,000 (+ 20% costs). As a ‘discovery’ coin it naturally carried a premium on the open market, especially as it bore such an atypically full legend reading.

Our second joint winner, an almost complete Anglo-Saxon hanging bowl found by Chris Ulliott in Ryedale, North Yorkshire in February of 2023, complete with the contents of the last meal it contained, is considered a Find of Note of Regional Importance, and sold for £36,400 at auction in September. Chris – who joined us with his wife for the presentation ceremony at Spink on 28th September – initially mistook his excessively rare find for a “rusty old bucket” and said he had previously only found “the odd Roman and medieval coin”.

Hanging bowls have their roots in the Roman period and were highly valued objects in the Anglo-Saxon cultures of eastern Britain; they were typically included in furnished burials, which according to the PAS “date them to the mid sixth to late seventh century”.

Congratulations also go to our three runners up, Sean Blackmore, Jason Jones and Paul Green.



SPINK BOOKS ROUNDUP

Spink Books are pleased to announce that Coins of England 2024, Pre-Decimal and Decimal volumes, are now available to buy from our website www.spinkbooks.com



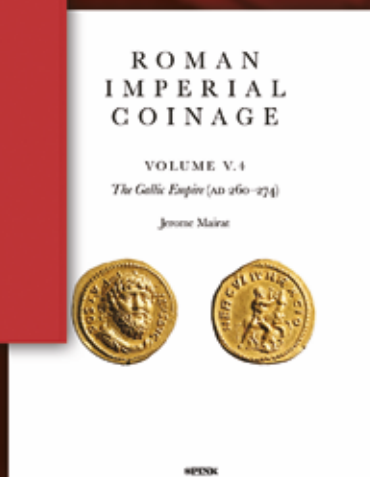
Pre-Decimal
640 pages
RRP £35



Decimal
440 pages
RRP £20

Also new to the list is John Melville Jones's *Testimonia Numaria Romana*, published to coincide with the author's 90th birthday.

698 pages
RRP £80



To mark the centenary of the typological catalogue started in 1923, Roman Imperial Coinage Volume V.4: The Gallic Empire by Jerome Mairat will be available in December 2023.

404 pages
RRP £150

For further information please contact us on books@spink.com

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FORTHCOMING SALE

THE OFFICIAL GOLDEN BNTA ANNIVERSARY CHARITY AUCTION AND PARTY



London, 14th December 2023

2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the BNTA, a momentous occasion for any association. The British Numismatic Trade Association, or BNTA, was founded in 1973 and was the result of formative discussions between members of the coin trade prior to the introduction of Value Added Tax.

Today, the BNTA has grown into an organisation which represents the interests of more than 90 firms located throughout the British Isles. It has become an effective force in the fight against forgery, theft and other criminal activities and has established the benchmark for the highest ethical standards in the coin and antique trade.

Each year the BNTA continues in its efforts to educate, safeguard and champion the numismatic world and this lucrative industry. The association works hard to maintain the highest of trade standards, sponsor further research, organise coin fairs and this commemorative year, in conjunction with Spink, have organised a Charity Auction, with all lots generously donated by members and friends.

The entire proceeds are being distributed to charity, the charity chosen by the BNTA being Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. Every day, around 750 seriously ill children and young people are seen at Great Ormond Street Hospital from all over the UK; these young

lives hang in the balance as patients, families and staff battle the most complex illnesses. Every day, the brightest minds come together to achieve pioneering medical breakthroughs that change the lives of thousands of children – and change the world.

Despite the greatest challenges a child can face, the hospital is a place where being sick does not always mean being sad. And it's a place where you'll find – today and every day – some of the bravest people you could ever meet.

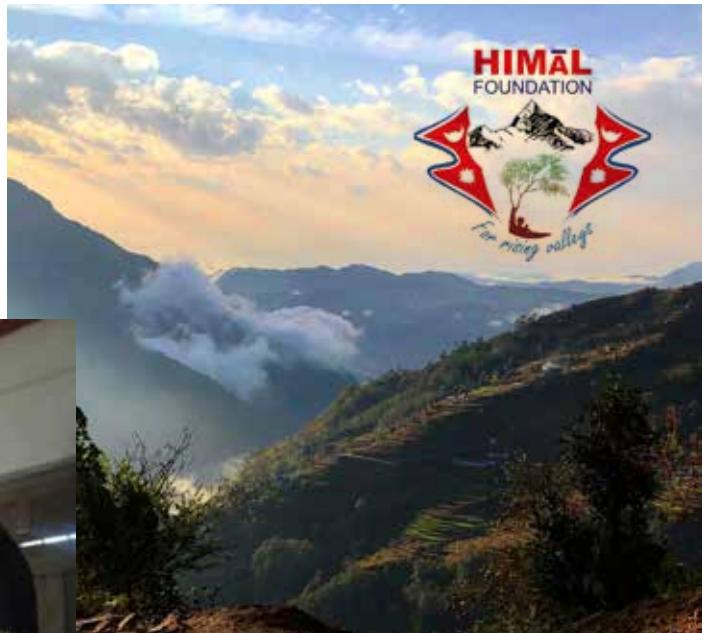
The charities chosen by Spink are the Himal Foundation, which was born in April 2015 after an earthquake hit Nepal and caused serious damage across the country, and Medical Life Lines Ukraine, created in February 2022 by Aliya Aralbayeva, a London-based lawyer originally from Kazakhstan.

The Himal Foundation was created after the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, when the world's eyes were on the bigger cities like Kathmandu and



IN AID OF
**GREAT
ORMOND
STREET
HOSPITAL
CHARITY**

“the Himā Foundation saw the need to assist more remote and neglected areas like the Mardi Himā Valley, ”



Pokhara; it saw the need to assist more remote and neglected areas like the Mardi Himā Valley, situated in the Annapurna massif of Gandaki province, north-central Nepal. The valley sits at the skirts of the Machapuchare Mountain, commonly known as the Fish tail for its shape and it is sacred to locals.

The lack of access to health and education made it difficult for locals to stay in their beloved land and the exodus from the valley started in search of a more accessible life in the city, which contrary to what people thought meant a worse quality of life. The founders of the Himā Foundation, both local and international, decided to focus mainly on building accessible Health posts, schools and to educate their young



in taking care of the environment, not only to avoid depopulation but to give locals a chance to remain home with a better quality of life. This has since been the focus of the Himaf Foundation and gives name to their tagline: for rising valleys - Health, Environment and Education. For further details please contact the Foundation's Hong Kong hotline, (852) 9300 8291, email info@himafoundation.org or visit the website, <https://www.himafoundation.org>.

The purpose of Medical Life Lines Ukraine from the very start has been to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine, principally in the form of aid-filled ambulances. To date over 40 ambulances, 21 generators and 1 all-terrain heavy-lift crane have been delivered, all (bar the crane!) by volunteer drivers who agree to fundraise at least £7,000 towards the £15,000 cost to buy, recondition and deliver an ambulance.

By asking each new volunteer driver to initiate fundraising MLLU has formed an ever-widening group of supporters – each new driver brings in a new circle of friends and donors, crucial to continuing fundraising efforts and recruiting more volunteers. Drivers have come from the UK, the USA, France and even Australia.

The aid is acquired from individual donors responding to lists of required items, other groups who collect aid and need to have it delivered, as well

as pharmaceutical companies, pharmacies and hospitals across the UK.

Ambulances are delivered to the Ministry of Health in either Lviv or Kyiv, who deploy them widely across the country according to need, with convoys and other aid lined up to deliver in November 2023, January, March and May 2024 so far.

Each and every new donation is greatly appreciated and can be made via <https://gofund.me/48a2f68b>, or via the charity's partners in the UK, US, Canada and Australia who will ensure these can be made on a tax-efficient basis. To contact the charity please email ambulance2ukraine@gmail.com or visit the website, <https://www.medicallifelines.org.uk>.

Thank you to all those who have helped make this event possible and the generosity of the BNTA membership. We hope that BNTA members, collectors and dealers alike will bid enthusiastically at this sale to help these charities improve people's lives.

Chris Martin, Chairmain BNTA
Olivier Stocker, CEO Spink
Jonathan Callaway, Volunteer Driver

“each new driver brings in a new circle of friends and donors, crucial to continuing fundraising efforts”

FORTHCOMING SALE

THE ST. HELIER COLLECTION: PART TWO

Spink London, 14th December 2023

2023 has been a momentous year for the London Coin Department! For the first time since 1993, it has offered every example of Britain's earliest Five Pound Piece from its inception in the dying embers of the reign of George III, through the first private commemorative struck by George IV in 1826, to the much-told masterpiece of Wyon's 1839 "Una and the Lion". However, the list is only complete thanks to the recent consignment of the astonishingly rare and oft-called 'Pattern Crown in Gold' of 1831, struck in the Coronation year of King William IV and courtesy of the second instalment of the mysterious "St Helier" collection.

In March, Spink was privileged to offer the first portion of twelve coins from this cabinet, including a striking example of Pistrucci's 'Memorial' Five-Sovereign Pattern piece of 1820 - rather apt in the same year that we heralded the passing of our own great monarch and Coronation of King Charles III. Smashing the £200,000 barrier is now par for the course in a Spink coin auction, but attention was also spared for an equally remarkable return-to-auction for Queen Anne's Pattern Farthing in Gold for the first time in over half-a-century. Grossing £98,000, the result and indeed the St Helier name is now well and truly established in the collector annals.

We are delighted to reveal that a second parcel has now surfaced! Featuring only six prized pieces this time, the connoisseurship continues as earnestly as where it left off in March. A fine run of Five-Guineas highlights

the reigns of Charles II, James II and William III, and proves once again that the Newtonian numismatic 'Fine work' flourishes are never forgotten in a Spink saleroom!

Complemented by more recent Proof issues of Edward VII and George V, all eyes will undoubtedly be transfixed by the final lot of the sale, when William IV's fabled Pattern in Gold is offered. With a truly enviable provenance through the cabinets of Charles Dabney-Thompson, George Blake, Hugh Vincent-Summers, George Hamilton-Smith and Alfred John Morris, incredibly this will be the first time since 1927 that the coin will appear at public auction! The last time it exchanged ownership at Spink in 1966, it set a new world record for a British coin at £5,350 (the average price of a British family home was £3,300 at the time!) No wonder this coin has already appeared in the Guinness Book of World Records! With a superlative third-party designation of PF63+ ULTRA CAMEO (the second finest certified), it is bound to set new heights when it crosses the block on 14th December, with a pre-sale estimate of £240,000.

For further information about this important sale, please contact Gregory Edmund, gedmund@spink.com / +44 (0) 20 7563 4048.



ANCIENT AND BRITISH HAMMERED AND MILLED COINS AND ARTEFACTS

Spink London, 14th December 2023

The Winter room auction brought to you by the Coin Department will include a curated array of desirable British and World hammered and milled coins, alongside a selection of exciting metal-detecting finds.

The run of English gold in this sale is particularly impressive. In terms of graded milled coins, a standout example is the 1693 William and Mary Two Guineas, estimated at £18,000–24,000. This coin hails from the NGC-graded Waterbird Collection and boasts a formidable grade of MS61+. It is a delightful coin with reflective fields and pale red toning, last sold at Spink in September 2019. Another attractive piece is the 1820 George III Sovereign, estimated at £4,000–5,000, with a MS63 grade—a stellar issue from the final year of King George's long reign.

Also available is a highly desirable 1937 Specimen Sovereign Proof Set. All graded between PF62 and 62 and accompanied by their original glossy Royal Mint box, these coins are a joy to behold, as one of only 5001 sets issued. The estimate for this exceedingly rare set, struck in the year of George VI's coronation, is £14,000–16,000.

Celebrated, too, is hammered gold, from intriguing Celtic staters to stunning Carolingian unites. Highlights include an Edward VI Half-Sovereign from the first period, 1549, which once graced the collection of H.F. Cabell and was eventually dispersed by Spink through the Numismatic Circular, 1971–1973. We are also pleased to offer two sixth-issue Elizabethan coins in especially good



Lot 55699-22



Lot 56177-31



Lot 56177-14



Lot 56177-17



Lot 56177-19

condition: an angel and a pound of 20 shillings. The latter is particularly extraordinary, with strong details and a lustrous shine throughout. It was sold back in April 1973 to the current vendor via the Seaby's Coin and Medal Bulletin and is estimated at £8,000–12,000

Featured too, is the hammered coin collection of George Pickering, an author who dramatised the 'exploits, romances, and adventures' of his 17th-century ancestor, Ned Pickering – 'soldier, adventurer, lothario, businessman, and entrepreneur'. His collection, in turn, was inspired by the English royal court's exploits leading up to the reign of Charles I. Spotlight lots here include a Henry IV Heavy Coinage Penny, an Edward IV/V Groat (both estimated at £800–1,200), and a very fine issue of a scarce Richard III Groat (estimated at £2,000–2,400), with bold legends and a confident portrait. Truly, the characters of history are brought to life through this charming run of silver.

In addition to coins for this winter sale, the coin department is pleased to be able to offer a range of other metal-detecting finds. There will be several exciting ring discoveries, from the late Roman period to the early 20th century. Most of these are posy rings that display heartfelt inscriptions such as 'Sans de Partir (without leaving)' and '+ en bone foy (in good faith)'. The highlight of the posy rings must be the so-called 'Burton Agnes Ring' (estimated at £4,000–6,000), a post-mediaeval specimen with detailed decoration and engraved with the motto, 'BE × TRV × TIL × DEATHE × AND × SO | SHAL × I'. Such wording likely points to its creation for the purpose of an engagement or wedding, a practice popular in England until the late 18th century. Alongside the rings, curious finds available include Viking hack gold, Bronze Age ring money, and Medieval silver gilt beads and buttons.

Ancient and British Hammered and Milled Coins and Artefacts will be offered for sale on 14th December 2023 at Spink London, alongside The St Helier Collection of English Gold Coins - Part II. For further information please contact Gregory Edmund, gedmund@spink.com.



Lot 55070-1a



Lot 56126-18



Lot 55882-1



Lot 56412-2

THE NY INC COLLECTOR'S SERIES SALE

New York, 14th January 2023, 9am EST

And so that time of year rolls around again. It seems to creep up on us more quickly every time! Spink is nevertheless delighted to return to its prestigious annual showcase as Official Auctioneer of the International Numismatic Congress at the Intercontinental Barclay Hotel in New York City!

With every year come new opportunities within the coin collecting sphere, and with them ever-greater challenges for us as specialists to rise up and outdo our previous Spink offering! In 2023, we were privileged to offer a superb assemblage of Ancient Coins from the connoisseur cabinet of the late Robert P Ball, as well as an impressive contingent of George IV Pattern Proofs in Gold. However, the greatest strength was to be felt in our European and Asian numismatic offering, where a superb Bank Portugaloser of 1694 smashed presale expectations by hammering for an impressive \$110,000 shortly after a unique Chinese Currency Set struck at the Heaton Mint in Birmingham grossed \$180,000.

A tall act to follow indeed, but one that we are proud to challenge, especially when we confirmed the consignment of a remarkable and nationally important King's Gold Prize Medal for Winchester College for 1936. As the oldest college in the world to gift annual Royal prize medals, Old Wykehamists are rightly proud of their centuries-long Royal patronage. However, wider events would ensure that 1936 would make this award particularly prestigious.

With the 325-day reign of King Edward VIII beginning and ending inside the calendar year, signed off with his fateful radio announcement: "...I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility, and to discharge my duties as King, as I would wish to do, without the help and support of the woman I love..." it would be the only Royal Prize medal to bear the official coin-portrait of the King who was never crowned. Remarkably the designs for the medal



were not sanctioned until March 1937, and King George VI would be the Sovereign to approve the retrospective use of his brother's effigy to follow established precedent. Only 26 medals would be struck by the Royal Mint bearing Edward's 'classical' effigy, of which this example will be the fourth to appear since the publication of Lawrence Brown's book on British Historical Medals in the 1980s. What makes this medal special, not least for its Winchester connection and its unique obverse inscription: 'EDWARDVS VIII REX ET IMPERATOR HONOREM PROPONIT' - 'Edward VIII, King and Emperor, Proposes this Award', is its esteemed recipient Christopher Ivan William Seton-Watson MC*.

College Archivist Suzanne Foster has kindly confirmed the exceptional profile of this scholar (1931-1937), who in addition to winning this award for Latin Verse in the Summer of 1936, also distinguished himself in History and Latin Speech, as well as serving as Head Boy or 'Aula Prae' from September 1936 until he left the school. He was also the recipient of the Classical Prize of the Goddard Scholarship. His character is no better displayed than his double-acts of gallantry in Italy during the Second World War. Following the cessation of conflict, Christopher was elected fellow in Modern History and Politics at Oriel College, Oxford where he worked until his retirement. In 1982, he founded the Association for the Study of Modern Italy. In 1984, he was appointed Commander of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic. As a lifelong specialist in historic studies, his obituary was penned in the Daily Telegraph in 2007. It will be a humble privilege to tell his immense contribution to the field as part of our forthcoming sale catalogue.

The sale will also include an impressive array of French Gold and Napoleonic Medals as well as the usual selection of choice English material to warm the cockles of post-Christmas blues.

For further information, please contact the Coin Department +44 (0) 20 7563 4007 / coins@spink.com

FORTHCOMING SALE

THE PERRY GOLDBERG COLLECTION OF FIRST ISSUES OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING OUTSTANDING INDIAN FEUDATORY STATES

RPSL London, 23rd January 2024

This fine collection of mint first issues of the world includes a good range of British Commonwealth with outstanding Indian Feudatory States, with many great rarities including those of Bamra, Bundi, Dungapur and Duttia, Anguilla 1967 set, Australian Colonies with Victoria 1850 Ham 1st and 2nd printing 3d, Canada 1851 laid paper 3d pair, Pakistan – Bahawalpur and Tanganyika – Mafia Island.

Europe includes Austria with Lombardy Venetia, Denmark Ferslew printing 1851 2 RBS, France and Colonies, the former with 1849 10c tête-bêche pair and the latter including rare Reunion and Tahiti, German Colonies, Norway with an extremely rare 1855 4sk horizontal pair, Portugal and Colonies with rare Azores, Spain and Colonies, the former with 1850 5r and 10r, the latter with Philippines and Mariana Islands (also USA) and Sweden 1855 3sk. The other area worthy of mention is Mexico with a good range district overprint.

The Perry Goldberg collection of First Issues of the World, including Outstanding Indian Feudatory States will be offered for sale at the RPSL London on 23rd January 2024. For further information please contact Nick Startup, nstartup@spink.com.



Cameroon



Reunion



Norway



India Dungarpur



Long Island



France



India



India Duttia



Canada

FORTHCOMING SALE

THE ‘CONNAUGHT’ COLLECTION OF HONG KONG

PART 1: QUEEN VICTORIA STAMPS

Spink Hong Kong, 24th January 2024

The design of these stamps are based on sketches by Sir Hercules Robinson, the youngest Governor of Hong Kong (1859-65). This design for Hong Kong stamps remained unchanged throughout the reign of Queen Victoria and her successors, for over 100 years, until the time of Queen Elizabeth, whose portrait was used in several different designs.

During Queen Victoria's era changes in postal rates meant that new values were required. The Hong Kong government was unwilling to pay for new dies and decided instead to change the colour of the stamps and print a new value on top. The printers De la Rue, in England, produced sheets of stamps in revised colours and overprinted them with new values before despatching them to Hong Kong. To make these new values easier for the local Chinese population to read, these stamps were handstamped in Hong Kong with the value expressed in Chinese characters. As these Chinese characters were applied separately to each stamp, this resulted in many varieties.

Collectors are also interested in the several other variations that evolved. The 96c stamp issued in 1861 was a grey-brown colour. In March 1864, when a further printing was required, another 52 sheets were despatched from London. The Hong Kong Post Office did not at first notice that the new supply of stamps was incorrectly printed in olive-bistre. This mistake



1880 Surcharges, 10c on 16c variety surcharge inverted. Only eight examples are recorded, and of these, two are in institution collections. Estimate HK\$300,000 – 400,000



1882 2c perforation 12. The history of this stamp is shrouded in mystery. Printed on thicker paper using this distinctive needle perforating machine; this is thought to be a trial, or experimental printing, a few examples escaping for public use. Only six unused and two used examples have been recorded. Estimate HK\$400,000 – 600,000



96c olive-bistre unused



1863-71 18c lilac. As stocks of the stamp without watermark were adequate in Hong Kong it took some years for those with the Crown CC watermark to become available. Therefore, the watermarked stamps are scarce. Unused copies are sought after and multiples are rarely encountered. This important corner strip of three, showing the 'current number' is highly desirable. Estimate HK\$100,000-120,000. It is thought that there may be only two or three blocks of four, this block being in a deep shade. Estimate HK\$100,000 – 120,000.



1880 Surcharges, 5c on 8c variety surcharge double. Only 9 recorded, all used in Shanghai. Estimate HK\$60,000 - 80,000



1880 Surcharges, 5c on 8c variety surcharge inverted. Only 14 examples of this stamp have been recorded, many which are defective. This is a fine example. Estimate HK\$100,000 – 120,000

was discovered only when the new stamps were required out of store for sale. By then it was too late to have correct replacements printed, so the new colour had to be used. Sending an order for replacement stamps to London took six weeks, plus a further six weeks for the printed stamps to arrive in Hong Kong. Thus the stamps in the incorrect colour were in use for 3-4 months. It is not surprising that the 96c olive-bistre is popular among collectors. Just over 40 unused examples are known and the one featured in this collection is estimated at HK\$150,000 – 200,000. Although single stamps in used condition are not rare, this collection includes the only known pair, which is estimated at HK\$25,000 – 35,000. A second pair was discovered by Spink in 2012 but it consisted of two rejoined single stamps.

One of the new stamps with a \$1 surcharged on 96c was printed in purple on red. However, the fact that there was an earlier printing of the 10c stamp in these same colours was overlooked and this enabled one enterprising person to get away with passing off a supply of these 10c stamps at a higher value by adding a \$1 surcharge



1863-71 96c brownish grey. This delightful block of 24 is the largest recorded of this value. To add to its appeal, it has the watermark inverted. Estimate HK\$200,000 – 300,000

on top. Once discovered, the Hong Kong Post Office changed the colour of the 96c to black and withdrew all the old examples. Not many of these postal forgeries are known and the example in this collection is estimated at HK\$1,000 – 2,000.

In 1891, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the colony, a Jubilee overprint was applied to the 2c stamp. This was one of the first commemorative stamps ever produced and there was great excitement when it was issued. Sales were soon restricted to 20 stamps for each customer and it is reported that two people lost their lives in one crush as queues became unruly. This collection features several important varieties and blocks, including overprint double and some scarce overprint varieties.

This outstanding collection was formed over many years by two generations of a family

of philatelists. In addition to some elusive proofs and 'Specimen' stamps, Part One of the collection offers many multiples that are prized by collectors. There are also several rare stamps and varieties, among them are those that featured in famous collections dating from the 1940s. This outstanding auction offers a golden opportunity for dedicated collectors to acquire philatelic finds that have not been available for very many years.

The second part of this collection, focusing on the postal history of Hong Kong and the Treaty Ports, will be offered at a later date.

The 'Connaught' Collection of Hong Kong Part 1: Queen Victoria Stamps will be offered for sale by Spink Hong Kong on 24th January 2024. For further information please contact Neill Granger, ngranger@spink.com.

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FORTHCOMING SALE

THE LIONHEART COLLECTION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND BRITISH EMPIRE PART XVIII, FEATURING SUPERB BRITISH GUIANA

Spink London, 25th January 2024

On 8th June 2021, Sotheby's sold the mythical British Guiana 1c magenta at hammer price \$8.3 million; it is the most expensive stamp ever sold.

No matter what your view of the 'Magenta', it most certainly has attracted a lot of attention over the years and has graced some of the finest collections of this most popular collecting area.

In January, we will be offering part XVIII in our ever-popular series of "Lionheart" auctions. As usual this will feature a good spread of Great Britain and Commonwealth countries, but on this occasion it is particularly worth highlighting the section of Classic British Guiana within the sale.

A small but perfectly formed group of classics begins with a superb example of the 1850 4c orange 'Cotton Reel' on cover, followed by other outstanding examples of this issue including the finest known example of the 12c black on pale blue showing the '2' of '12' with straight foot variety, this superb example having previously graced the collections of Count Ferrary and 'Besancon'.

Following on from this, there are a number of very fine examples, both used and unused, of the 1852 Waterlow issue including multiples and examples used on cover; from there we continue



1850 12c. blue, a superb used example with enormous margins



the finest known example of the 12c. pale blue, ex Ferrary and Besancon



1852 Waterlow 1c. black on magenta, the finest known example



1852 Waterlow 4c. blue used on cover



1850 4c. orange 'Cotton Reel' used on cover



1856 Provisional 4c. black on magenta, a superb enormous example



1934 4c. vertical pair, variety 'imperforate between'.tif

“an event not to be missed for existing collectors of this popular country”

into the 1853-59 lithographed Ship types with a strong section of both mint and used, including large multiples on cover.

The 1856 Provisionals are also well-represented – one highlight is an enormous example of the 4c black on magenta, ex Besancon. The British Guiana section continues with later Ship types right through to modern errors, featuring lovely mint examples of both the King George V 1934 and King George VI 1938 4c 'imperforate between' varieties.

The auction takes place on 25th January and is an event not to be missed for existing collectors of this popular country, but is equally a wonderful opportunity for a new collector looking to start out in this iconic collecting area; in fact, even if a collector were to buy every British Guiana lot in this auction I think we can say quite confidently that it (probably) wouldn't set you back \$8.3 million ...

The Lionheart Collection of Great Britain and British Empire Part XVIII, featuring superb British Guiana, will be offered for sale at Spink London on 25th January 2024. For further information please contact Josh Barber, jbarber@spink.com



Lviv Opera House



*Lviv Opera House on
reverse of 20 Hryvnia note*



Ivan Franko University in Lviv, formerly the regional parliament of Galicia



Jonathan Callaway

UKRAINE – A SHORT HISTORY AND AN OVERVIEW OF ITS PAPER MONEY

In July 2023 I volunteered as a driver in a convoy to deliver four aid-filled ambulances to Lviv in Ukraine, one of numerous convoys arranged by the humanitarian charity *Medical Life Lines Ukraine* (MLLU). I was delighted when MLLU was selected as one of the beneficiary charities in the BNTA's December 2023 charity auction at Spink.

My visit, short though it was, prompted me to look much more closely at the country's long and complex history and not least look at the rather shorter and only slightly less complex history of its paper money. This article is the result.

Early History – and the Geography

The centuries prior to the gradual emergence of nation states in central and eastern Europe saw a constant succession of tribal migrations, invasions, conflicts and ever-changing borders. Some of the many invading tribes included Cimmerians, Scythians, Sarmatians and later Goths, Huns, Bulgars, Avars, Khazars and Magyars. Why so much flux over so many years? Quite simply, the geography allowed it. A topographical map of Ukraine makes this clear – apart from the Carpathian Mountains in the extreme west of modern-day Ukraine, there are no natural boundaries at all, other than a few major rivers, especially the Dnieper.

Not only were these lands open plains, the western end of the Asiatic Steppes, but they were unusually fertile. There's a good reason why Ukraine has been called "the bread basket of Europe" – and thus why so many fought over it so often. The region is part of the great

Northern European Plain which extends many thousands of miles across the continent from the Low Countries to the Urals.

In the 8th century the region became dominated by the eastern Slavs, the forerunners of today's Russians, Belarusians and Ukrainians. The first state to emerge was Kyivan Rus', dominated by Slavic people descended from the Varangian conquerors, traders and settlers who themselves had originated from Sweden. They thus had essentially Viking heritage and their descendants had by the 10th century penetrated along the major rivers, the Volga, the Don and the Dnieper, as far south as the Black Sea and the Caspian.

Kyivan Rus', the Birthplace of both Ukraine and Russia

Kyivan Rus', as the name implies, was based in Kyiv, though a second centre in Novgorod in what is today northern Russia was later established and became an independent principality. Kyivan Rus' peaked under the rule of Grand Prince Volodymyr the Great (d. 1015) who chose to be baptised into Orthodox Christianity in 989 and then ordered his subjects to do the same. The adoption of the Orthodox religion led to the introduction of the Cyrillic alphabet but also embedded a westward view as he and his people sought to be closer to those countries further west.

The state, more an agglomeration of loosely allied principalities than an organised nation state, lasted until around 1240 when the Mongols and the Golden Horde, led by the grandson of Genghis Khan, invaded from the east and sacked



St Sophia's Cathedral Kyiv

Kyiv. While it lasted, Kyiv enjoyed a golden age as a vibrant hub of commerce and cultural interaction, sitting on the Dnieper River at the crossroads of north-south and east-west trade routes.

After the collapse of the Kyivan Rus' state most of the Slavic populations emigrated, either westwards where the principality of Halych (Galicia)-Volynia arose in modern-day western Ukraine; or eastwards to establish the principedom of Vladimir-Suzdal and the Grand Duchy of Moscow. These last two had by the 18th century consolidated into the Czardom of Russia, formally established as the Russian Empire in 1721 by decree of Czar Peter the Great.

Thus can be seen that the histories of both Russia and Ukraine were closely intertwined from the very beginning. Neither has forgotten this shared history, though they both have very different visions of how it should be interpreted today and this clearly is at the heart of the current tragic conflict. At its simplest, Russia regards Ukraine as part of its own inalienable territory while Ukraine has claimed, and defends, after

centuries of struggle, its absolute right to an independent future (and ever closer ties with countries to the west).

In the 13th century new regional powers arose and claimed or invaded most of modern-day Ukraine. The largest of these was the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the union of two countries through a joint monarch. At its greatest extent in 1618 its territory included virtually all of Ukraine, with the rising powers of Czarist Russia bordering it to the east and the Hapsburg dominions to the west. To the south, across the Black Sea, was the Ottoman Empire, which claimed control over the Crimean Khanate and much of the Black Sea littoral.

This political construct couldn't last and it didn't. Czarist Russia expanded steadily westwards, taking swathes of territory across eastern Ukraine and most of what was Lithuania including its Baltic heartland, while the Kingdom of Poland found itself being partitioned no less than three times by Russia, Prussia and Austria during the 1790s.



1720 map of Ukraine (or Russia Rubra) by Johann Baptiste Homann



Postwar Ukraine showing current internationally recognised borders



A 100 Koron note issued by the Polish Governor-General of Galicia in Lviv in 1915

The Cossack Hetmanate (self-governing state)

In a historically important development starting in the 15th century the Cossacks, semi-nomadic east Slavic peoples with a deserved reputation for ferocity and expert horsemanship, coalesced into a semi-independent state that challenged the power of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Their homelands had originally stretched much more widely than modern-day eastern Ukraine where they had started to settle, forming the Cossack Hetmanate after 1648 in the Zaporozhia region.

In 1654, after rising up against the Polish-Lithuanian regime under the leadership of Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky, the Cossacks signed a pledge of allegiance with the Czar and placed themselves under his protection in return for being granted autonomy. The rebellion failed and the Hetmanate was partitioned between Poland and Russia with most of it ultimately being absorbed into the Russian Empire. Under Hetman Ivan Mazepa the Cossacks became embroiled in prolonged warfare in the 1660s-1680s between the Turks, Russians and Poles for control of Ukraine. He allied his army with Sweden against the Russians, ultimately unsuccessfully after the Swedes were beaten by Russia in the 1709 Battle of Poltava.

The Hetmanate was however the first state to emerge controlled by the people who actually lived in Ukraine. In the late 18th century Russia absorbed most of western Ukraine following the partitions of Poland and took over southern Ukraine and the Black Sea littoral after the annexation of the Tatars' Khanate of Crimea. The history of the Hetmanate has informed the attitudes taken by both sides in the current conflict, although with radically different interpretations.



Preserved shopfront in Lviv (in Polish, German and Yiddish)



Central Lviv with Taras Shevchenko monument



This Russian State Credit Note from 1912 may well have circulated in Ukraine



This Austro-Hungarian 50 Krone note is in German, plus another 8 languages (with the reverse in Hungarian).



A 1917 100 Karbovantsiv note issued by the People's Republic of Ukraine (widely forged).



The reverse of the 100 Karbovantsiv note is in Russian, Polish and Yiddish.

The rise of Ukrainian nationalism

It is difficult to be precise when the term “Ukraine” first came into use to describe the lands now forming this country. The word itself is derived from the East Slavic for “borderlands”, or alternatively, “region” or “country”. The earliest reference to “Ukraine” is disputed, it may have been in a 14th century text in Old Church Slavonic unearthed in 1617. Use of the term, however, spread slowly; Poland and Lithuania started to use it in the 15th century to describe the Cossack Hetmanate.

In the 18th century the contrast between the multi-ethnic urban centres and the largely Ukrainian peasantry became more pronounced. Pre-World War II Lviv, for example, was divided into four quarters: Ukrainian, Polish, Jewish and Armenian while both the regional Galician parliament and the city council were dominated by Polish business interests and landowners. Nevertheless, a Ukrainian national cultural reawakening took place during the 19th century while the country was divided between the empires of Russia (which had subsumed the whole of Poland) and Austria-Hungary. Ukrainian literature, education and historical research flourished, largely based in the universities of Kharkiv, Kyiv and Odesa.

Nationalist sentiment was more pronounced in Galicia, then controlled by Austria-Hungary. By contrast Russia banned the use of the Ukrainian language. As we will see, many of the prominent proponents of Ukrainian identity are celebrated today, some appearing on the country's current banknote issues.

Independence in 1918 and Integration into the Soviet Union

In the aftermath of World War I, the Russian Revolution in 1917 and the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, most of Ukraine became a republic, though some western provinces were divided between Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia. “Ukraine” was first used as the name of a political entity in January 1918 when the short-lived Ukrainian People's Republic was founded in Kyiv with the historian Mykhaylo Hrushevsky at its head. In November 1918 the Western

Ukrainian National Republic was formed in Lviv but it was absorbed into the national body after just two months.

Bloody clashes broke out not only with the Russian Bolsheviks who now controlled Russia following the toppling of the Czarist regime but also other separatist movements in Ukraine, including an anti-Bolshevik pro-Czarist Second Hetmanate, led by Hetman Pavlo Skoropadskyi. At one point there were at least four competing movements and one village is reputed to have changed hands 28 times as fighting spread across the country. Even Kyiv itself changed hands an estimated 14 times in 18 months. A brutal civil war ended only with the 1922 creation by the victorious Bolshevik Red Army of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Western Ukraine became part of Poland but in 1939 under the terms of the Nazi-Soviet pact was annexed by the Soviet Union.

During the 1920s the Soviet government at first encouraged Ukrainian language and culture within strict political limitations but this policy was reversed after 1928. Then, in 1932, under Stalin's harshly imposed collectivisation of agriculture, a manmade and disastrous famine broke out in many regions of the USSR, but was at its worst in Ukraine. Anywhere between 3.5 and 10 million Ukrainians died in what they named the *Holodomor* ("death by hunger"). Some historians believe Ukraine was targeted by the Soviets and refer to the Holodomor as a genocide, but this view remains disputed.

The country had had no time to recover from this when the Second World War broke out and it was overrun by Nazi Germany in 1941. Ukraine was further devastated before being retaken by the Soviets in 1944. More than 5 million Ukrainians were killed in the war including almost all the 1.5 million Jews who became victims of the Holocaust.

A controversial but still – in some quarters – revered figure was Stepan Bandera, who rose to prominence before the Second World War as leader of an extreme right wing Ukrainian nationalist movement that attacked the Polish authorities and during the war joined forces with the invading Nazis. As such he was



The 1918 1000 Karbovantsiv (with the Tryzub is on the reverse)



100 Hryvnia note issued by the People's Republic of Ukraine to replace the Karbovantsiv issues



German occupation issue. The 2 Karbowanez note is rare as most were destroyed by partisan action.



An example of the first series of Karbovantsiv coupons issued in 1991. The vignette is of Lybid, the sister of the legendary founders of Kyiv



The second series in 1992 depicted the whole statue featuring Lybid as well as Kyi, Shchek and Khoryv



This 2003 1 Hryvnia note depicts Grand Prince Volodymyr the Great



This 2003 5 Hryvnia note depicts Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky



The current issue 20 features Ivan Franko

heavily complicit in the Jewish pogroms in Lviv and fought against the Soviets in a belief that Germany was more likely to grant Ukraine independence than the Soviet Union.

By the end of the war, the Ukrainian SSR had been enlarged to include parts of Poland, Hungary and Romania. In 1954 Soviet leader Khrushchev transferred to Ukrainian control a Crimea shorn of its 200,000 Tatar population following their 1944 expulsion by Stalin to Siberia for alleged collaboration with the Nazis during the war.

The current, internationally recognised, borders were finally in place.

Full Independence in 1991

In 1991 Ukraine was finally able to break away from of the collapsing Soviet Union and declared its independence on 24th August, ratified overwhelmingly in a referendum on 1st December. Growing nationalist and anti-communist sentiment had won the day, with support even in the Russian-speaking industrial regions of eastern and south-eastern Ukraine.

Post-independence politics in Ukraine can be characterised as a constant tug-of-war between those seeking closer ties with the West, specifically through membership of the EU and of NATO, using the example of the newly-independent Baltic countries, and those preferring to maintain closer ties to Moscow, similar to Belarus. The country was largely split east-west along geographic lines and balancing the two proved almost impossible. Rampant inflation, widespread corruption and the rise of hugely wealthy (and often unpopular) oligarchs all hampered economic development.

The 2005 Orange Revolution was supposed to usher in a period of pro-Western policies but faltered. The 2013 Maidan revolution resulted in victory for pro-Western parties but led to the Russian annexation of Crimea the following year (a Crimea now repopulated by returning Tatars) and the creation of pro-Russian breakaway republics in Donetsk and Luhansk. Fighting started and for Ukraine this marked the start of the Russian military campaign to regain control of the whole of the country. In Ukraine it accelerated moves to intensify ties with the West

and an association agreement with the EU was signed in July 2017.

Russian pressure did not lessen and culminated in the illegal invasion of February 2022 which has resulted in so much bloodshed and huge damage to the country's infrastructure and economy. It also served to unite the country behind the leadership of President Volodymyr Zelensky. Ukraine's future remains uncertain but its determination to maintain its independence within internationally recognised borders remains undimmed, as apparently does Russian determination to reimpose Moscow's control over the whole country.

The First Ukrainian Paper Money

Paper money was not widely used in the region until the First World War broke out and coin shortages forced governments to turn to paper. Russia issued Ruble notes and Austria-Hungary notes in Kronen/Korona that circulated in the parts of Ukraine they controlled. Some of these colourful issues can be found quite easily today as the currencies of these countries collapsed towards the end of the war.

The short-lived Ukrainian National (People's) Republic of 1917-18 found time to issue its own paper money and created a new currency for the purpose. This was the Karbovantsiv, a term that originated from the ancient primitive way of carving (*karbuvaty*) numbers of calculations on a rod, or on the rim of a Ruble coin. Notes were issued by the Central Rada (Parliament) as well as the State Treasury and there was even an emergency issue of postage stamp currency.

Notes denominated in Hryvnia (also written as Grivna) were issued once it became clear the Karbovantsiv notes were being widely forged. The term Hryvnia derived from a silver weight measure or ornament used in Kyivan Rus'. One of the first notes issued by the Republic also, rather misleadingly, stated that 1 Hryvnia equalled 8.712 Doli of pure gold (thus 2 Hryvnia were worth 1 Karb). The Doli was an old Russian weight but of course this note, and all other Ukrainian (and Russian) ones had not been exchangeable for gold since the start of the war.

Another note, issued by the Central Rada,



The current issue 50 features Mykhailo Hrushevskiy



The current issue 100 features Taras Shevchenko



The current issue 200 features Lesya Ukrainka



The current issue 500 features Hryhorii Skovoroda

featured text in four languages: Ukrainian, Polish, Russian and Yiddish, the latter, uniquely for Ukrainian banknotes, acknowledging the country's large Jewish community, even in the context of longstanding and often violent antisemitism.

Most Ukrainian notes of 1917-18 had one feature in common – the incorporation of the Tryzub or Trident symbol into the design. This historic symbol dates back at least 1,000 years to Kyivan Rus' times and was readopted in 1991 by Ukraine as the country's official emblem; it can be seen on all post-1991 banknotes.



The current issue 1000 features Volodymyr Vernadskyi

Many unofficial local issues appeared throughout the war and in the subsequent chaos, again due to the lack of small change. In 1915 in Lviv, for example, the Polish-Galician authorities issued a note in Krone, the Austrian currency, after the latter had been driven out of the territory.

From 1922 the Soviet Union's Ruble replaced the local currency and all the local issues were demonetised.

German Occupation Issue

In 1941 Germany invaded Ukraine and proceeded to set up its own monetary authority, the Zentralnotenbank, which in 1942 issued notes denominated in Karbowanez (at the rate of 10 to 1 Reichsmark). The bank was based in the Polish town of Rovno ("Rowno" in German), now Rivne in northwestern Ukraine. The notes ranged from 1 to 500 Karbowanez but the 2 Karbowanez note is rare as nearly all the print

run was hijacked and destroyed by Ukrainian partisans.

The Red Army reimposed Soviet control in 1944 and Ruble notes again became the sole currency of Ukraine until independence in 1991.

First Independence Issues: Karbovantsiv Coupons

Crudely printed Ruble coupons were first issued in 1990 to be used only alongside Russian Rubles in an effort to prevent the buying up by Russians of Ukrainian assets and produce. These coupons did not by themselves qualify as circulating currency but an issue of Karbovantsiv coupons in 1991 did, the third use of this name as Ukraine's currency. Notes of identical design differentiated only by colour were issued at par with the Ruble in nine denominations from 1 to 500. They carried no serial numbers or signatures. The front depicted Lybid, the sister of Kyi, Shchek and Khoryv, the legendary founders of Kyiv, while on the reverse was St Sophia's Cathedral in Kyiv.

A second series of coupons was issued in 1992 when inflation was already beginning to bite. These now had serial numbers and ranged from 5 to 1000 Karbovantsiv while the third series issued 1993-95 ranged from 2000 to 1,000,000 Karbovantsiv. Inflation reached hyper-inflation levels of over 530% p.a. in 1995 (some economists put the peak much higher than that: 285% per month has been calculated) and the Karbovantsiv became effectively worthless. Foreign cash dominated the shadow economy and tax revenues plunged.

The Hryvnia is Introduced

Some stability started to return with the currency reform introduced in September 1996. The Karbovantsiv was replaced with the Hryvnia at the rate of 100,000 to 1 and a new series of notes, dated 1992 although not issued until 1996, was issued. The notes, in seven denominations from 1 to 100 Hryvnia, now featured portraits of historical figures, including Grand Prince Volodymyr the Great of Kyivan Rus', Grand Prince Yaroslav the Wise of Novgorod and Kyiv, Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky and Hetman Ivan Mazepa, all on the now discontinued lower denomination notes.

The historical figures who now grace the current series of notes are worthy of a closer look:

On the current 20 Hryvnia note is the writer **Ivan Franko** (1856-1916), after whom the university in Lviv is now named. He played a major role as a political radical, promoted the revival of the Ukrainian language and advanced the nationalist cause in his western Ukraine homeland but died before seeing his dream materialise all too briefly in 1918.

Historian **Mykhailo Hrushevskyi** (1866-1934) is on the 50 Hryvnia note, having earned his place by writing the first and still definitive history of Ukraine in the Ukrainian language. He is also remembered for having been elected in 1917 as the head of the Ukrainian People's Republic. After its collapse he was forced to

emigrate to Austria but later returned. In his major histories of Ukraine he emphasised the continuity he saw in Ukraine's history from the East Slavic tribes and Kyivan Rus' through the Cossack Hetmanate to today's unified nation. His works were also published in Russian and contradicted the Russian view that these roots belong exclusively to them. He died of natural causes but some remain suspicious that he became a victim of Stalin's purges.

Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861), who is on the 100 Hryvnia note, is remembered for both his poetry and his painting. He was born into poverty in serfdom but through his artistic talent was able to escape that background and rise to become what many consider to be Ukraine's national poet. He was considered a



*Obverse of the 2023 Commemorative We will not forget!
We will not forgive*



*Reverse of the 2023 Commemorative We will not forget!
We will not forgive*

“He conceived and promoted the concept of the “*noösphere*”, defined by him as the new state of the biosphere where human life is the key determinant of geological evolution”

political radical due to his unrelenting attacks on the landowning classes and the system of serfdom. A monument to him was erected in Lviv as a gift from the Ukrainian diaspora in Argentina was unveiled in 1992. There are numerous further monuments to him in both Ukraine and Russia. His valedictory poem, “*Zaporit*” (Testament), resonated widely with the Ukrainian public after the Russian invasion of 2022. The poem had resulted in his memorial being built on a mound built to overlook the Dnieper River south of Kyiv, reflecting these words: “*When I die, then make my grave high on an ancient mound, in my own beloved Ukraine, in steppeland without bound: Whence one may see wide-skirted wheatland, Dnipro’s steep-cliffed shore*”.

The 200 Hryvnia note featured **Lesya Ukrainka** (1871-1913), best known for her poems and plays. She was the daughter of Ukrainian intellectuals and a passionate believer in an independent Ukraine who counted both Ivan Franko and Taras Shevchenko as major influences on her work. She has been described as the foremost woman writer in Ukrainian literature and was a leading figure in its modernist movement.

The philosopher, poet and musician **Hryhorii Skovoroda** (1722-1794) can be found on the 500 Hryvnia note. He is known as the founding father of Ukrainian philosophy and mainly focused on the philosophy of happiness, what happiness is and whether everyone can achieve it. Freedom and happiness through knowing oneself were key themes for Skovoroda. He was looking for a new, better world and taught that there is no need to seek happiness in other countries, in other centuries. It is everywhere and always with us; as a fish is in water, so we are in it, and it is near us looking for ourselves. It is nowhere because it is everywhere, similar to sunshine – only open your soul.

Sadly, Skovoroda’s historic home in a tiny village near Kharkiv was recently destroyed by a Russian

artillery strike, along with a museum of his work. His home was nowhere near any obvious military targets and this appears to have been a deliberate act of cultural vandalism, by no means the first one since February 2022.

Finally, the 1000 Hryvnia note features the scientist and geologist **Volodymyr Vernadskyi** (1863-1945) who is perhaps best known as one of the founders and the first president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. He also founded the Ukrainian National Library in Kyiv. He conceived and promoted the concept of the “*noösphere*”, defined by him as the new state of the biosphere where human life is the key determinant of geological evolution. He is not a universally popular figure in Ukraine as, like many Ukrainians, he had close family ties to Russia and his descendants have shown pro-Russian sentiments. Vernadskyi himself declined the opportunity to adopt Ukrainian citizenship in 1918.

Commemorative Notes

Several commemorative notes have been issued since 2011. The first one was a 50 Hryvnia note with a special overprint issued to mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the National Bank of Ukraine, the country’s central bank. In 2016 came a 20 Hryvnia note to mark the 160th birthday of Ivan Franko and in 2021 the whole series of current issues was overprinted to mark the 30th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence.

A year after the Russian invasion in February 2022 a further commemorative note was issued, a new 20 Hryvnia design by Volodymyr Taran entitled “*We will not forget! We will not forgive!*” to commemorate “*Ukraine’s struggle against the Russian invaders and celebrates the fortitude, resilience, indomitability, and heroism of Ukrainians.*”

Acknowledgements

My research for this article drew on these websites:

History of Ukraine | Flag, Maps, & Russia-Ukraine War | Britannica

Home, Encyclopedia of Ukraine

The Underachiever: Ukraine’s Economy Since 1991 - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas_of_Ukraine



GETTING TO KNOW THE GUY BEHIND THE STAMP

*Guy In His Battersea
Studio With QUEEN I
Piece From Terence Stamps
Collection*



“Guy also recreated the back, as he believes that it is arguably the most engaging, exciting, and interesting side”



Louise Rummel

AN INTERVIEW WITH CONTEMPORARY SCULPTOR GUY GEE

Many of our readers may already have encountered Guy's work, as he re-created the famous one cent magenta which sold for \$8.3million at Sotheby's New York on 8th June 2021. Following the success of The Terence Stamps project, the studio was approached by Stanley Gibbons about a collaboration, "the icing on the cake" which was "a real highlight, and in some ways the beginning of my career. That really was quite a eureka moment."

When recalling his time working with the auction house, Guy realised that he and the auction house were very different. "Our interests are completely removed," he explains, adding that he is "purely interested in stamps for their aesthetic value, not their rarity or monetary value." To collectors this may understandably be a bit controversial, but I invite you to consider how the collectable little pieces of delightfully designed and detailed printed paper can be

adored not only for their traditional collectable value, but also their aesthetic beauty.

As you would expect, collaboration with a well-known auction house led to increased attention focused on Guy, his portfolio and his studio. Many One-Cent-Magenta replicas were soon being shipped out of the studio and into their new homes to be admired and appreciated.

In addition to a replica of the front of the stamp, Guy also recreated the back, as he believes that it is arguably the most engaging, exciting, and interesting side. Thanks to its previous owners, as Guy recounts with fascination, "it has certainly had a wild past! All its owners have signed it, and you know, one of them is in prison for murder. He tried to use the stamp as bail money leverage! It's been signed by the French Government and the shoe designer who was the last person to sign it, who was also the seller of the stamp through Sotheby's. He drew a stiletto shape on the back, which he then used to sign his name in, so that's the sideways shoe you see, it's a weird shape in pencil."

To backtrack for a moment, Guy's "Terence Stamps" project led to the commissioning of the One-Cent-Magenta, so I would like to lead you through the events leading up to this point. Guy explained his confident decision to drop out of Art School in 2014 as "Primarily due to the expense of tuition. Some people might say it's money well spent, but for me, tutorials were so irregular, I decided that paying for art school wasn't for me. And as opposed to spending £9,000 a year on my tuition, I should probably (not that I could afford to do so) spend that sort of money on the art itself."



One Cent Magenta Prints In Draw



One Cent Magenta Reverse



Vogue Magazine Cover Table

Leaving art school did not deter Guy from pursuing an artistic career. When asked whether this decision affected his belief in becoming successful, he revealed that he “was always quite creatively confident” and believed that “something at some point would be successful” – and though unexpected at this point, he was absolutely right!

In his heart he had not thought that the stamp project would make it big, as his expectancy sat comfortably with the magazine-themed tables he was producing at the time. Believing that it was “going to be easy. I’m going to sell them to magazine houses, publishing houses, people, and they’d be on the front cover of magazines, the models, photographers, editors, magazine enthusiasts and collectors would all have them in their offices, and they’d be able to change the cover for every month. This was this whole business plan I set out.”

Armed with this (ultimately misplaced) confidence in the tables, he set off to New York in the hope that it would yield a blossoming start to a hugely successful, independent artistic career. “I went to around fifty galleries in New York. Every single one of them sort of smiled and said goodbye; that was a great lesson in rejection. Only one of the fifty was helpful and that was the last person. Nothing actually came





Working In Set Design



Set Design

of the contacts he gave me, but it was still a very nice final moment of my stay in New York. I really didn't find it too emotionally difficult, and I kind of expected it was going to be hard, but I did find that – and I guess this is still something I'm learning – the art scene, of course, is very much a Who's Who".

On his return to England, Guy found work in set design for advertising, alongside his childhood neighbour. "I can remember from a very young age; I'd always see him returning from work when I was on my walk home from school. He'd be emptying his car full of huge dinosaur heads from an advert, or a remote-controlled speedboat. Once I remember him having an Airstream caravan lifted over his house and into his garden by crane to be used as his office. This guy was seriously cool! Together we worked on Super Bowl adverts for Coca-Cola, also Hershey's and M&S adverts too. That really got me up to speed with my technical skills, which was really helpful."

From the outset, his parents were very patient and had faith in their son as he set about building his business. After all, the family knew the level of dedication a successful career requires, as his father set up what ended up being the family-run printing business. [Having been given a small printing press when he was seven, Guy's father

would be printing for his local community by the time he was nine. To quote Guy, "it sounds ridiculous, but he did it. I've sort of always known how hard my dad worked, and the long hours."]

Guy's mother had a scientific background, which led him to believe that the combination of a scientific mother and creative father helped him to be particularly organised, methodical, and a perfectionist. A fun fact about the Gee family tree is that after a chance encounter with the well-known photographer, David Bailey, his aunt was photographed and featured on the front cover of Vogue four times!

Guy was an only child, and as many only children will know, it encourages you to find and make your own fun. Guy found this in art – the extensive possibilities of creating fragments of his imagination contented the young sculptor and helped mould him into the successful artist we see today.

In Guy's portfolio you may notice the recurring theme of travel. He really loves to travel! Therefore, I could not help but ask where this interest stemmed from, which led him to open up about another aspect of his childhood: "We wouldn't travel often as a family, but when we did, we'd do these big travel adventures. We went on an around-the-world trip when I was nine. Firstly to San Francisco to visit cousins, then Australia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and finally Dubai and back. It was a three-month holiday to

"his aunt was
photographed
and featured on
the front cover of
Vogue four times"



Terence Stamps Prints

celebrate my father's 50th birthday, and perhaps this holiday is where the inspiration and interest I have in travel originated from. The cultural shocks were massive. Having been born and raised in London, travelling through urban areas of Sri Lanka was a massive shock to a nine-year-old."

Another of Guy's favourite pastimes is extensive eBay searching; getting lost down a rabbit hole of antique, weird, wonderful, and even everyday objects. To his delight, this is a hobby he is allowed to indulge in in his practice as he searches for the stamps that will be recreated and included in the Terence Stamps collection of works.

Terence Stamps

Through Guy's interest in Japanese graphic design and typography, he discovered Japanese manhole covers, Japanese posters and Japanese matchboxes, before arriving on the doorstep of the majorly successful Terence Stamps project. Hitting on the initial idea for Terence Stamps, Guy recalls having had "one of those eureka, jaw-dropping moments where I found this specific stamp that just blew my mind! They were so old, I couldn't believe the age of them, and how contemporary, crisp, and fresh they looked from the very late 19th century. It was from there that I then started looking up the other countries." The results spiralled into the project we see before us today.



Terence Stamps Prints At Home In Their Draw



Different Colour Ways



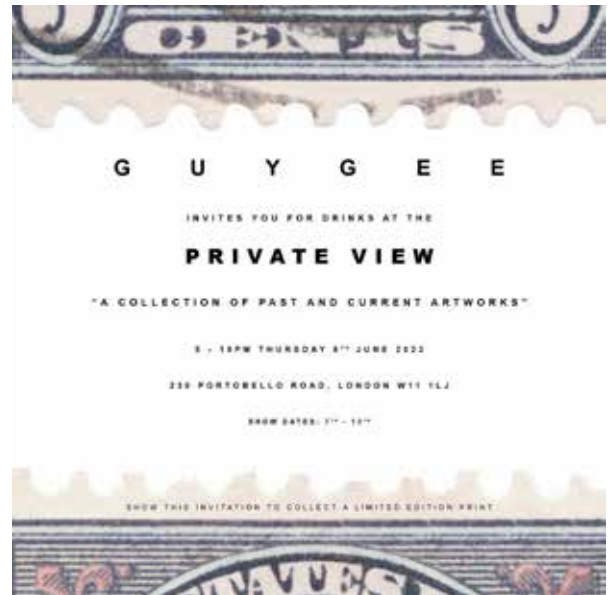
Fraying The Edges Of The Stamp Print, Making It Appear As Though It's Been Torn From A Sheet Of Stamps



Stamp Prints Foam Mounted To Their Boards Ready For Framing



Mounted Terence Stamps Print Standing Proudly



Private Showing Admission Ticket

As with any such project, there is a great deal of technical skill involved, from the point of idea generation to completion of the final outcomes ready to be sold. And Terence Stamps is no exception. In the first place there is the aforementioned eBay-trawling. Secondly, buying the stamp, then scanning it in at 3,000dpi and making initial colour edits. Thirdly, making four to five different colourways, then choosing which one works best (Guy says this is usually either the blue or red versions).

Following this, the printed stamp reproduction then needs to be cut out. To ensure best execution of the final stamp, the edges of

the stamp must be frayed as if the stamp has been ripped from the sheet. To do this the studio uses a rotary tool, as scissors are unable to cut to the standard of intricacy with which this tool can.

The edge of the stamp is then dyed with tea, to age its appearance, resembling the stamps we collect. "Then it is glued onto a foam mount, which gives it the height and shadow, and finally it is framed in glass and Perspex."

Terence Stamps' audience is "completely varied, which is fantastic" and "comprises of a complete cross-section of society". This may be thanks to the works being relatively affordable when considering the current art market.



Largest Terence Stamps Piece Featuring A Collection Of The Smallest Prints In The Series

Additionally, the collection is geography-based, which everyone can relate to in one way or another.

This got me wondering what stamp collectors and enthusiasts might think of the project. Guy tells me that when approached by such clients he is often asked for a specific stamp, in a specific colourway that is original and unaltered, whereas his niche is in editing them: “often they are massively edited, and there might be a combination of a number of stamps.”

As a run up to his major solo show next year, Guy held his first solo show in Portobello Road, Notting Hill in the “summer” just gone. I was kindly invited to the private preview, and it was wonderful to appreciate his work as a collection, noticing the differences in appearance and mood of the smaller and larger prints.

Additionally, Guy included a special, never-seen-before, combination print of many of the stamps from the Terence Stamps collection. The individual stamps were smaller than any print he had included in the collection, but the whole piece was far larger than any other print in the collection – an alluring and intriguing juxtaposition.

So, what might be on the horizon for Guy? Well, we should keep an eye out for adaptations of the Mirrored Landmass series, objects such as walkie-talkies communicating through his expressive art pieces, and old washing detergent boxes taking centre stage as the studio continues to create. Sounds fascinating! I will certainly be following their progress and if you would like to, then I strongly recommend taking a look at Guy’s website (www.guygee.com).

With thanks to Guy and all those at Guy Gee Studios for their kind cooperation in the creation of this article.



Guy Gee First Private Show



Mirror From The Mirrored Landmass Collection Of Works Available From Guys Website

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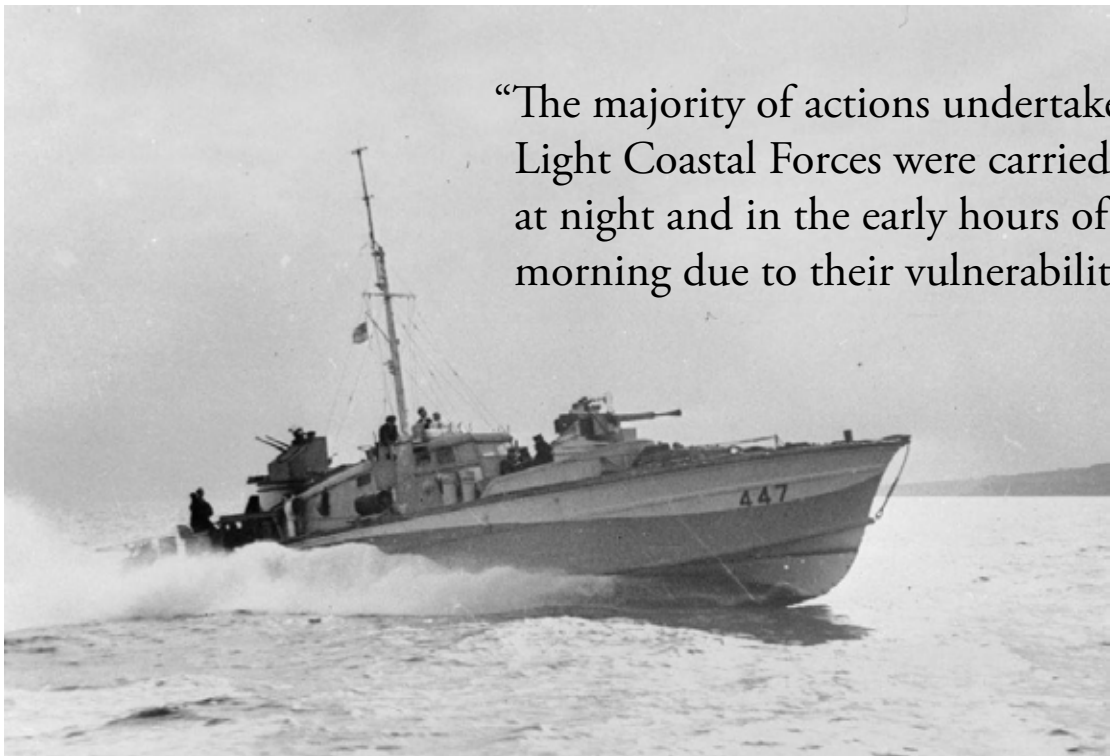
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MTB 451 at speed



“The majority of actions undertaken by Light Coastal Forces were carried out at night and in the early hours of the morning due to their vulnerability ”

MTB 447 formerly MGB 128

CRASH START – A HAT TRICK

Light Coastal Forces were variously known as the little ships, Fast Speed Boats, sea spitfires, mosquitoes with stings, the night hunters and Spitfires of the sea. Highly manoeuvrable, the boats were squat, beamy and at times exhilarating; night was their hunting time.

From humble beginnings at the start of the war, Light Coastal Forces grew into a navy of 1700 vessels including 641 MTB's and MGB's with a peak manpower of 3000 Officers (98% of them Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve) and 22000 men. In nearly 800 separate actions fought in all theatres of operations but primarily in home waters and the Mediterranean, they sank more than 500 enemy vessels at a cost of 178 craft to themselves. Many of the actions were fought against enemy motor torpedo boats and in thus defending Allied coastal convoys they were responsible for saving hundreds of merchant ships. (1)

The majority of actions undertaken by Light Coastal Forces were carried out at night and in the early hours of the morning due to their vulnerability which they compensated for with speed and surprise, their principal target the German coastal forces. They were predominantly small wooden vessels laden with high octane fuel and very few navigational aids. Armament was sacrificed for speed, although as the war progressed so did weapons and several improvements were made to the boats defences.

Some engagements were fought close at hand, including hand-to-hand combat as the men of Light Coastal Forces boarded the opposing coastal craft. They were involved in convoy protection, attacking enemy shipping,

mine laying, transporting troops and supplies, including clandestine operations, providing supporting fire during beach landings, there is no doubt they were an integral part of the Allied Force. Their only limitation was range due to their high fuel consumption and their inability to take punishment in heavy seas. Their main means of escape were speed and rapid manoeuvrability whilst their low silhouette in the water and smokescreens gave them additional protection. Their guns were only really effective against vessels of similar size.

There largest arena of operations were the seas of the East and South coasts of Britain and with the German occupation of France, the Western European coastlines, where they were used for attacking merchant shipping and the opposing coastal forces.

The adage that war is long periods of boredom punctuated by brief moments of terror is illustrated in this classic Light Coastal Forces engagement on 7th & 8th July 1944 involving many E-boats and two Motor Torpedo Boats (MTB's) 447 & 451 from the 35th Flotilla.

Both Motor Torpedo Boats had been manufactured by the British Power Boat Company. Originally commissioned as MGB 128 on 27 August 1943, she was re classified as MTB 447 but without torpedo tubes and commanded by Lieutenant E.C. Glennie D.S.C, RNVR; she had a crew of 12 and was scrapped at the end of the war.

MTB 451 commissioned on 5 November 1943 was commanded by Lieutenant John 'Jumper' Collins RNVR, had a crew of 9 and 2 x 18" torpedo tubes. She was sold in 1947

and became the houseboat 'Linnette' before being sold again when the owners emigrated to Australia in 1973. She was last seen as a wreck at Lymington in Hampshire.

The gunfire from the E-boats engaged was more accurate than usual and some 37 or 40 shells were sustained. The pompom of MTB 451 was put out of action early in the action. A great many hits from .303 were also sustained. There was not any element of surprise about the attack as not only did MTB 451 have to deal with the onslaught from the German E-boats but to avoid friendly fire from British destroyers she had to illuminate the area with star shells several times and draw additional fire from the E-boats.

Leaving their base in the afternoon of 7 July MTB's 447 & 451 were vectored by frigate control heading off for their favoured hunting ground of Cap d'Antifer off the Normandy coast. Captain Class frigates configured as coastal forces control frigates with coastal forces officers responsible for controlling and providing crucial radar support. It's most likely that HMS Retalick was the vectoring frigate for this operation. (2)

Ferocious fire fight

Leonard Reynolds takes up the story in Home Waters M.T.Bs & M.G.Bs at War 1939-45:

'One of the Flotillas to be transferred from the Western flank to operate off Cap d'Antifer in the blockade of Le Havre was John Dudley Dixon's 35th, which had been in the thick of the action off Cherbourg as the main strike force in that area. The second division led by John Collins (like all Collins's in the Navy he was called 'Jumper'), was out on the 7/8th July with the 55th, accompanied by 463 (Lieutenant Glen Creba) of the 29th on the night she was sunk. (3)

The most unusual feature of the complex pattern of patrolling on the 7th was that Collin's unit of the 35th had two completely separate actions, each as a result vectoring by frigate control. The first at 01.27 hours was against a group of 3 E-boats 8 miles off Cap d'Antifer. Collins' boats (451 and 447) were at first able to close them and engage, but the E-boats increased to maximum speed and began to draw ahead

and the action turned into a chase. The rearmost E-boat was hit, but not decisively, and the boats were recalled to the frigate.

At about 02.30 hours they were sent off again to a position further out from Cap d'Antifer, and almost at once met four more E-boats. This time the range was much closer – down to 150 yards when fire was exchanged. The E-boats repeatedly altered course, but Collins kept them in range and the two of the E-boats were heavily damaged. Return fire of 37mm and 20mm calibre was heavy and accurate and suddenly disaster struck. At almost the same moment, Eoin Glennie in 447 was wounded in the face and blinded by blood while 451 in the lead sustained a hit on the bridge which killed the SO John Collins and wounded everyone on the bridge except the coxswain. As he fell, Collins must have caught the throttle. The combination of the two incidents led to a collision in which 447 sustained such damage that she had to be towed back to base with the help of Dog Boats.

That casualties and boat losses were mounting is hardly surprising in retrospect as the intensity of operations caused by the concentration of enemy forces and their relentless detection and interception far exceeded any previous period. In the first month of Operation Neptune there had been fifty-six actions in the Channel, despite the bad weather in mid-June and the reduction in enemy activity in the week after the bombing of Le Havre.'

Casualties

There were two fatal casualties during the engagement:

Lieutenant John Collins and Telegraphist D/JX 580547 Harold Stevens both from MTB 451. Lieutenant Eoin Glennie was severely wounded and nine other ratings wounded.

The German force, 2. S-Flotilla (Second Group S 180 and two other boats). All the boats were damaged but are quickly repaired. They suffered one severely wounded and two lightly wounded casualties. The 2 MTB's fired a total of 690 Pompom, 1350 Oerlikon and 2700 Vickers rounds.



Coles's Distinguished Service Medal on its investiture bar

Awards for the engagement

Distinguished Service Cross – Lieutenant E.C. Glennie (MTB 447)

Distinguished Service Medal – L.S. T. O. Coles (Coxswain MTB 447); L.S. Jack Brown (Coxswain MTB 451); A.B. W. A. S. Dodd (Gun layer MTB 447); A.B. James Wolstenholme (Gun layer MTB 451)

Mention in Despatches – A.B. P. Flynn (MTB 447), posthumous mention in despatches – Lieutenant J. Collins (MTB 451)

Lieutenant 'Jumper' Collins was originally recommended for a higher award but because of the prevailing regulations he could only be awarded a posthumous Mention in Despatch as no recommendation had been submitted before his death.

Of the seven awards for gallantry for this action, I have been extraordinarily lucky to acquire three of the Distinguished Service Medals.

The three D.S.M. recipients

Leading seaman Thomas Oliver Coles

Thomas, the coxswain of MTB 447 was a Londoner who was born on 10 November 1920 and was a bank keeping contractor when he joined the Royal Navy. As coxswain he was responsible for the vessels navigation and steering, his gallantry saved the MTB in particularly arduous circumstances, especially when his commanding officer, Lieutenant Eoin Glennie had been wounded in the firefight.

D.S.M. London Gazette 21st November 1944: "For outstanding courage, resolution and skill whilst serving in Light Coastal Craft in many successful engagements with the enemy."

The original recommendation states: "Leading seaman Coles is coxswain of MTB 447. He has been in action 9 times with his boat against enemy E-boats since D-Day and though without

action experience before this he has carried out his duties with efficiency and handled the boat with coolness and courage when under heavy fire enabling his commanding officer to maintain close and accurate station on his next ahead at all times. When his commanding officer was wounded on the night of 7/8th July and the bridge hit he was particularly cool, setting a fine example to junior ratings and organising towing arrangements."

A.B. William Ashworth Seddon Dodd

'Billy Dodd', who was the gun layer on MTB 447, was born on 23 December 1908 and was a pre-war light heavy weight professional boxer from Lancaster who between 1929 and 1940 took part in 33 professional bouts.

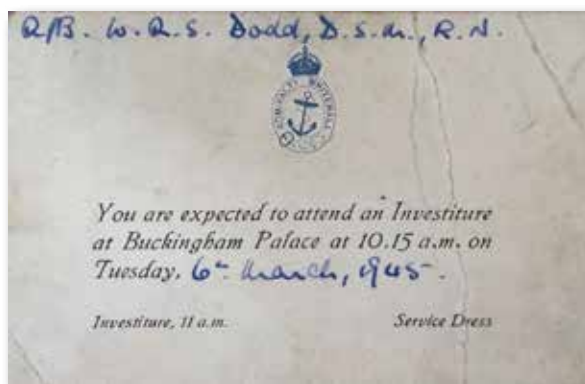


'Billy Dodd', a pre-war light heavy weight professional boxer from Lancaster, before and during the war

His DSM was recorded in the London Gazette 5 December 1944, 'For outstanding courage, resolution and skill while serving in Light Coastal Craft in many successful engagements with the enemy.'

The original recommendation however gives a more dramatic and vivid description: William Ashworth Seddon Dodd. "Throughout the action on the nights of the 3/4th and 7/8th July (1944) as on the previous engagements in which he has taken part since D-Day, maintained a steady and accurate fire upon the enemy with his pompom in the face of heavy enemy fire and inflicting much damage. He has always maintained his gun at a very high standard as evidenced by the fact that during the actions of the 1/2nd, 3/4th and 7/8th July he fired 1400 rounds without a stoppage and his coolness and courage set a fine example to all other Gun layers."

Billy died in 2004 at the ripe old age of 95.



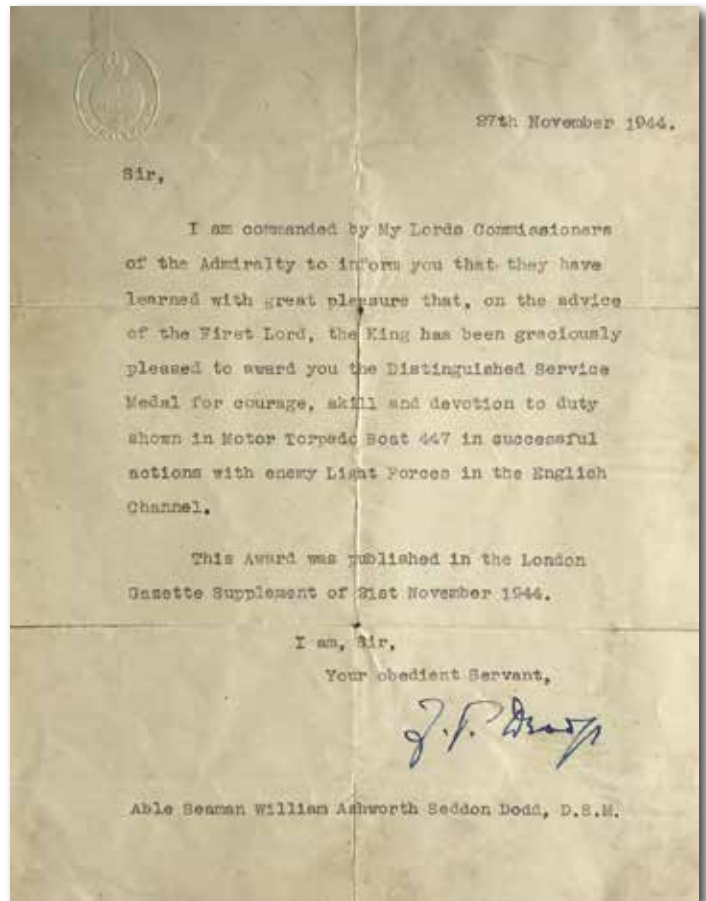
Dodd's invitation to attend Buckingham Palace for his investiture

Billy Dodd's D.S.M. group





“July he fired 1400 rounds without a stoppage and his coolness and courage set a fine example to all other Gun layers.”



Letter from the Admiralty informing Dodd of his award

James Wolstenholme

James, who was the gun layer on MTB 451 came from Clayton-Le-Moors in Lancashire and was born on 7 January 1913. Severely wounded in the action he died in July 1976.

D.S.M. London Gazette 21st November 1944: For gallant and distinguished services in Light Coastal Craft in successful engagements with the enemy.’

The original recommendation states: “James Wolstenholme was the gun layer of the twin Oerlikon of MTB 451 and has taken part in seven actions since D Day and had considerable experience before that. Throughout he has fought his guns with accuracy and coolness

under heavy enemy fire and inflicted much damage. On the night of the 7th/8th July during the second engagement he was wounded in both thighs and though in great pain continued to fire his gun until he lost consciousness through loss of blood.”

The local newspaper reporting on James’s award stated;

‘The award of the D.S.M. is announced to A.B. James Wolstenholme, younger son of Mr & Mrs M.Wolstenholme of 332 Denmark Place, Whalley Road, Clayton-le-Moors. The decoration is for outstanding courage and devotion to duty shown though wounded in a motor torpedo boat in an action with enemy

light forces on the night of July 7 -8th 1944.

In the action referred to the enemy, besides having more powerfully armed units, outnumbered the British forces by nine to two. In the fighting the skipper was killed and seven of the crew were missing. The boat however was brought safely back to port. The coxswain has also received the D.S.M. A.B. Wolstenholme was the main gunner.

He was badly wounded in the lower part of the back and had to receive 22 stitches. Since the battle he has been in hospital and convalescent, but he expects to finish treatment shortly and to attend the investiture.

A.B. Wolstenholme who is 31 years of age was employed in the preparation department of Messrs W.F. Chambers and Sons, Daisy Hill Mill, Rishton. For 18 months he was in Clayton Home guard. He was a member of the Clayton-le-Moors Institute and an old boy of All Saints School.

During the invasion of Normandy A.B. Wolstenholme's elder brother, L/Cpl Harold Wolstenholme, saw him from a troopship, but he was on duty at the time and his brother could not attract his attention.'

Whether any of the other gallantry awards are extant remains to be seen.

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James Wolstenholme at Buckingham Palace with his parents at his investiture



The crew of MTB 447 of the 35th Flotilla prepared for a cold night in the North Sea, wearing fleecy jackets and hoodies sent as 'comforts' from Australia, January 1945. (Courtesy R. Wootton)

“The enemy at this time was still engaging from broad on the port bow but the range was opening fast”

The Official Action Report number 74: 7th & 8th July 1944 (7)

The senior officer, Lieutenant John Collins on MTB 451 supported by Lieutenant Eoin Glennie in MTB 447, their objective was an anti E-boat patrol. The sea was slight and the visibility that evening variable with local haze.

During the evening and the early hours of the next day 2 engagements were fought, the first at 01.30 against a force of 3 E-boats, the second at 02.27 against a superior force of 4 E-boats.

The first engagement took place at 01.20 hours. Three E-boats were sighted on the port bow with the two MTB's closing in. The unit was seen by the E-boats who increased speed to avoid contact although by that point the two MTB's

had opened fire at a range of 6-700 yards. The E-boats were faster and able to draw away, although Collins claimed that they did score a number of hits on the last in line E-boat. The two MTB's disengaged and returned to their patrol line.

The second engagement occurred just over an hour later when 4 E-boats were sighted 19 miles off Cap d'Antifer on a northerly course. The MTB's closed to about 150 yards

The engagement took place at 0230 hours 19 miles off Cap d'Antifer when 4 E-boats were sighted on a northerly course off the port bow. The range was closed to about 150 yards fire being opened at 3 cables. The enemy appeared to be formed in port quarter line and altered course towards North and later at about 0231 more sharply eastward. The last 2 of the enemy's line were heavily engaged throughout. At the same time as the enemy were altering course, Lieutenant Collins in command of the unit on MTB 451 was hit and killed and at almost the same time Lieutenant Glennie commanding MTB 447 was hit in the head and blinded by blood. As he fell Lieutenant Collins ordered starboard 20 and either reduced speed or in falling caught the throttle. The Coxswain (LS Coles) who was the only man unhurt in the bridge of MTB 447 did not appreciate the situation immediately and put his helm over too late and

coupled with the extremely poor steering of this particular ship, a collision ensued with MTB 451.

The enemy at this time was still engaging from broad on the port bow but the range was opening fast, and the action was finally broken off with the enemy making off on an easterly course. The first Lieutenant of MTB 451 came up from the plot very soon after his commanding officer was killed and as the E-boats previously engaged were making off, the unit was engaged by an unknown force from the Southeast for a short period and two hits were sustained by MTB 451 from 20mm shells.

It was thought that very considerable damage was inflicted upon two of the enemy upon whom fire was concentrated and personnel in in each boat claim to have observed smoke and a small fire in the last of the enemy line.

The hull damage sustained by the unit from the direct enemy action was not great and not in any way decisive but the damage resulting from the collision was very considerable and MTB 447 had to be towed back to port, and but for the timely arrival of MTB 690 and 691 who rendered invaluable assistance a serious situation might have arisen. It is clear that the collision arose out of the most unfortunate coincidence of both commanding officers receiving severe wounds at practically the same instant and that Lieutenant Glennie in spite of great efforts to remain in control of his ship lost consciousness at the critical moment.

The existence of a second enemy force astern of the E-boats engaged is not confirmed by the plot but there does not seem to be any doubt that after the collision had occurred the unit was engaged from the north and the southwest, the latter at long range.

The gunfire from the E Boats engaged was more accurate than usual and some 37 or 40 shells were sustained. The pom pom of MTB 451 was put out of action early in the action. A great many hits from .303 were also sustained. There was not any element of surprise about the attack as the unit was illuminated continuously during its approach by a destroyer to the south and had to recognise itself with two start cartridges several times and the enemy must have been fully aware of the situation.



Fig.1. Reverse of a burned Edward VII penny that was once in the pocket of a B17 bomber crewman's pocket



Fig.2. After a collision with another bomber on 26th August 1944, the B17 named 'Ding Dong Daddy's' tail section lies smashed adjacent to a Hertfordshire wood.



Julian Evan-Hart

AVIATION ARCHAEOLOGY – A PEEK INTO BRITAIN’S RICH AIRCRAFT-BASED HERITAGE

“I came to the dense woodland edge, shimmying on my back, Commando-like, under some rusted barbed wire strands”

“That’s the wood where the bombers came down,” said Paul to a seven-year-old boy sitting in his car, being given a lift to school. The young lad briefly glanced over at the leafy woodland, disinterested, being more concerned about the oncoming and terrifying mathematics lesson with the horrid

Mr Harris – an encounter made all the scarier by the fact that he hadn’t understood the homework given the day before and consequently had not done it. Well, that seven-year-old boy was me and ten years later, somewhat bored after having finished my O’Levels (I later discovered that I had failed mathematics, as expected), I decided to see what all this bomber stuff was about and check out the wood in question.

As I walked over the fields I came to the dense woodland edge, shimmying on my back, Commando-like, under some rusted barbed wire strands. I was in, and amid the tense excitement noted the row of orange bailer twine suspended with desiccating and reeky dead squirrels, briefly considering what Ron the local head gamekeeper’s attitude would be, should he find me in the middle of these prime shoot pheasant-riddled woodlands. But the fear was instantly forgotten as something caught my eye, a shattered oak tree with around its base a great pile of twisted aluminium, rivetted sheeting and blistered rubber.

Despite my ignorance of things aviation, such a mess must surely have originated from the bombers. This assumption was enhanced

and strengthened by the presence of a large stained and burned piece of cord retaining parachute canopy, what must be a bomb hole, and a battered leather boot lying below another tree. Closer examination revealed numerous moss-covered pieces of crumbling, blue, powder-like, oxidising metal. As I looked around, many other shattered trees became evident, some of which had large pieces of metal stuck in them. This was my first baptism into what was later termed ‘aviation archaeology’ and would lead to a lifetime’s involvement with researching and excavating aircraft, primarily those World War II-related ones which had crashed or been shot down between the years 1939-45.

Scorched Edward VII Pennies

I was fascinated and spent many a humid afternoon beneath the summer sun-spangled emerald canopy using an early metal detector to locate related artefacts. I was lucky, and soon established where the cockpit had smashed into the ground, finding dial faces, numerous electrical items, manufacturers’ plates and even part of one of the control columns. There followed three very scorched Edward VII pennies (**Fig.1**) as well, coins which were never spent by one of the young American aircrew on a pint or two of ‘warm brown beer’ down the local. I should perhaps add here that the bombers concerned were two 390th Bombardment Group B17G Flying Fortresses which collided over the North Hertfordshire village of Weston on 26th August 1944. One was named ‘Ding Dong Daddy’ after a contemporary song. (**Fig.2**) In addition to metal detecting there would be years



Fig.3. *Mary, the daughter of one of Ding Dong Daddy's waist gunners, takes up a similar role 70 years later*

of research, interviewing locals who had witnessed the incident, tracing the four survivors, contacting almost all of the eighteen crew members' families and even having Mary, (**Fig.3**) the daughter of one of the waist gunners, come over and stand on the exact spot where the father that she never knew had been killed.

In the 44 years since I first risked the wrath of Ron the gamekeeper, I have had both the honour and privilege to be involved with some epic aircraft excavations and therefore recovery and preservation of some of Britain's finest aviation heritage. During this time, I also learned that the often-seen blue powdery aluminium oxide from air crash sites was called 'Daz' in the trade, after the well-known make of washing powder. Excavating crashed aircraft is of course an involvement with something that, having occurred only some eight decades ago, has only of a relatively recent date been considered 'archaeological' - though the concept of modern conflict archaeology is now a newly developed and ever-expanding facet of the desire to find out about, sometimes excavate and preserve any associated artefacts for the benefit and wider understanding of such topics.

German Machine Gun in a Ditch

Over four decades I have learned to observe the surroundings when looking for an aircraft crash site, looking for broken trees (though the 1987 hurricane effects confused that issue somewhat), dark soil patches in agricultural fields, areas of stunted crop growth and even certain types of plants, checking ditches for discarded larger artefacts and of course using a metal detector. Why ditches? you ask – and fair play, that's not obvious – but when an aircraft crashed, often the recovery crew would leave large



Fig.4. *The author with a P51 Mustang propeller blade*

artefacts and other obstructions buried; it was after all wartime. Consequently, over the years, if a farmer's plough has snagged on such, they are dug up and thrown into the nearest ditch. I once found a German MG 151 15mm cannon lying in just such a drainage ditch and also a complete yellow painted tip propeller blade from a P51 Mustang! Weeks later I was involved in excavating another P51 Mustang (**Fig.4**) and found a propeller blade there too. Nothing is more exciting to me than hearing the chug of a JCB excavator in some rural backwater when the crash site of an aircraft has finally been located. The prize target as always being the engines (**Fig.5**).



Fig.5. A true prize indeed, a shattered Rolls Royce Merlin engine sees the light of day after 80 years



Fig.6. German SC 50 bomb that was once on board a Dornier Do 17 which was shot down in 1940 – I later traced one of the crew who invited me to stay in his hotel in the Black Forest

We are indeed a funny breed, we aviation archaeologists, or ‘diggers’ as we are often referred to. Being excited by an oily stain twelve feet down in the Essex clay, a small fragment of airframe indicating we are in the right area, or the graunching clang felt through your feet as the excavator’s bucket hits a deeply buried something, often accompanied by comments such as, “Summat big down there” or, “Yep, we are on it”. Using an excavator may seem brutal, and a far migration away from the delicate operation of using a trowel and brush. However, in the case of an aircraft there is no real archaeological fact-gathering context as such – we know date, times, who was crewing it, who shot it down, why it crashed in some cases, and we have or had eyewitnesses regarding many incidents.

Extracting a Time Capsule

Basically, it is an extraction of a time capsule of wreckage, an investigation to see what remains and what can then be cleaned and conserved. Of course, it is possible to find human remains or partial remains and where this has been experienced all the correct protocols and procedures are complied with – after all, these sites are often synonymous with young lives given during World War II, and in all cases without exception, respect must always be shown to them and their families. There is of course also the chance of discovering quantities of unrecovered ammunition and larger ordnance such as bombs (**Fig.6**), and once again there are strict procedures to follow.

On many occasions I have had family members related to the crew of aircraft I am investigating come over to Britain to attend excavations or see where their kin lost their lives. I have to say providing them with information, and sometimes closure as well as meeting them, have been some of the most emotional experiences in my life.

Naturally, such interest in excavating aircraft (which had its origins as long ago as the 1950s when early aircraft digs took place) has created the desire to possess an artefact relating to, say, the Battle of Britain or another notable aerial phase or operation of the last war. The collecting market has grown considerably, and so long as this complies with all the legal aspects and

requirements this is fine, but it will remain a contentious matter, aggravated by those few involved who don't. But the activities of such must never tarnish the historical importance of the recovery of such artefacts and the ever-expanding educational importance of doing so – not taking action concerning our buried heritage literally condemns it to death and perhaps should also be considered as a criminal offence.

Willihad's Junkers 88 and Other Amazing Experiences

On a more positive note, aviation archaeology as such has permitted many of us to be involved in some incredible experiences. I relate here some memorable ones of my own:

Returning the name-engraved spanner of Willihad Vogt, the flight mechanic of a Junkers Ju 88 shot down over Britain in 1941, then seeing him introduced to Tony Staples – the very RAF pilot who had shot him down! I can tell you, sitting in a Ford Granada Ghia, going down the M25 with these two gentlemen in the back was perhaps one of the most remarkable journeys I have ever undertaken. Amazingly, Tony had last seen Willihad's Junkers Ju 88 with one engine on fire, disappearing into the gloomy night skies over Birmingham, and there was no way he could ever have imagined he would be sitting in a car with its flight mechanic. Equally, Willihad probably didn't consider that half a century later he would meet the very man who caused him to endure six years as a POW.

There was another interesting angle here, too. After the Junkers Ju 88 had been shot down, the Staffel from Kampfgeschwader 77 to which it and its crew belonged was transferred to Russia with no survivors returning. So the consideration was that actually in shooting down Willihad and his crew Tony Staples had ironically saved their lives. I should perhaps add that I have one of Willihad's Junkers Ju 88 propeller blades (**Fig.7**) and the main compass from the cockpit (**Fig.8**) within sight right now, as I write this.

Finding the wing tip of a Heinkel He III which had been turned into a rabbit hutch!

Unearthing a bomb in an Essex field, then ten more of the same on Whitstable beach – both



Fig.7. One of the shattered propeller blades from Willihad Vogt's Junkers Ju 88, shot down in 1941 and now on my living room floor.



Fig.8. The main compass dial face from the cockpit of Willihad Vogt's Junkers Ju 88



Fig.9. A fragment of Plexiglas from the cockpit of Johnny Johnson's Lancaster which dropped the Bouncing Bomb on the Sorpe Dam. Johnny kindly signed it for me

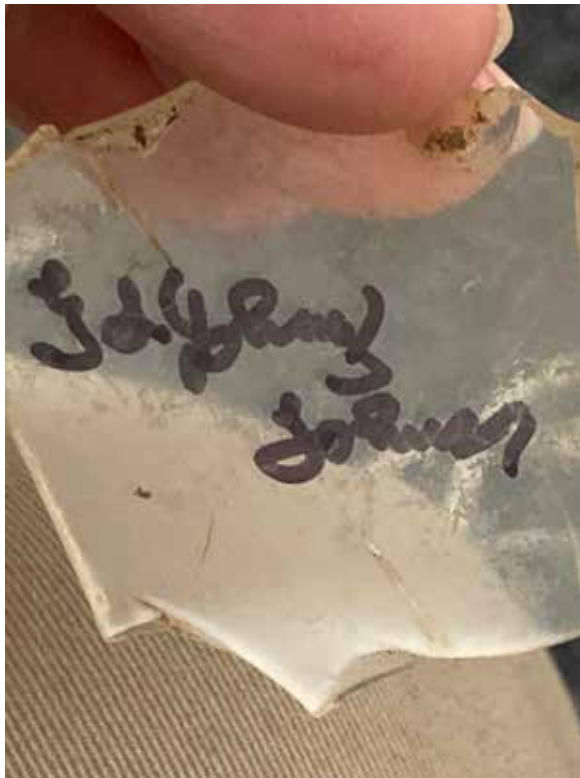


Fig.10. Crew front access panel handle once touched by the famous film star Richard Green (Robin Hood) in the propaganda film Flying Fortress

incidents having been 'dealt with' by EOD.

Tracing the observer from a Dornier Do 17 shot down in the Battle of Britain and being invited to spend time with him in his Black Forest-based restaurant – sadly, I never went, but I did send him a surprise in the post. I would love to have seen his face when he opened the parcel to find a small piece of the tailplane from his Dornier!

Being involved with the excavation of a Dambuster Lancaster bomber in France and having Johnny Johnson sign a small piece of Plexiglas (**Fig.9**) from his old aircraft, from which he had dropped a Bouncing Bomb on the Sorpe dam back in 1943.

Looking for the crashed remains of a 1917 crashed Turkish Fokker out in the deserts of Jordan.

Checking out a pasture field in Kent and seeing the top four inches of a Dornier 217 propeller blade protruding from the grass.

And of course the unbeatable, oily, aviation fuel-soaked stench and associated rude-sounding suction noises made as a Rolls Royce Merlin engine is slowly extracted from the grasping Kent clay.

Robin Hood's Aeroplane

For many years I had looked for the crash site of a B17C Flying fortress, one of the first to come over to Britain under the Lend Lease scheme. In the early 1980s I struck lucky by finding some 0.50 calibre bullet casings dated 1939 and 1940. The Americans didn't really get over here in strength until 1942 onwards, so I realised these were something very special. Indeed, I had found the crash site of a remarkable and important aircraft and one which featured in a wartime propaganda film called 'Flying Fortress' starring Richard Green, of later Warner Bros Robin Hood film fame. In the film you can see him grab the handle to the crew access panel below the nose of the bomber – well, also in sight as I write this is that very access panel handle (**Fig.10**).

Legalities of Aviation Archaeology

In the early days, groups and individuals raced around the country excavating up to three aircraft all over the UK in a weekend - great

days, I remember them well. But although enjoyable, this pursuit was haphazard and resulted in many re-excavations being required. Of course as it was uncontrolled it wasn't long before officialdom was attracted, and legislation accordingly passed in the form of The Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. Overall, that made much sense and co-ordinated things on a much better level – since then all World War II and other period military aircraft crash sites cannot be investigated without the necessary licence.

However, we must not forget that such heritage is all of ours and it's all too easy for officialdom to generate self-elected individuals who act as custodians of our heritage and restrict recovery of it to an almost inoperable degree – acting almost as guardian-type misers of this exhaustible resource, and sometimes appearing as if they actually prefer for it to remain buried – clearly, as in all matters a balance of the two considerations is desirable.

Hunting a Zeppelin

Now, I did mention earlier that my main interest was between the years 1939-45, largely accurate, but one time I did err from this and tackled a Zeppelin. This was at the request of the BBC who were wishing to produce a Timewatch programme in the series called 'The First Blitz' – I won't forget that phone call, "Jules, any chance you could find a Zeppelin?" Well, there weren't that many to choose from, and a brief metal detecting search of Oakmere Park (courtesy of Hertsmere Borough Council Bar), the site where Zeppelin L-31, piloted by the famous Kapitanleutnant Heinrich Matty, crashed to earth in 1916,



Fig.11. The author being filmed on the crash site of Zeppelin L-48 for a BBC Timewatch episode called *The First Blitz*



Fig.12. German Imperial Navy button which was once on the tunic of one of the crew of Zeppelin L-48 which was shot down in 1917



Fig.13. One of the 0.303 bullets that helped bring about the demise of Zeppelin L-48 – this one was fired by Captain Henry Saundby in his DH2 fighter

“this example has the most fascinating of historical and confirmed provenances”

revealed just two pieces of mangled aluminium. (Although a passer-by did inform me that when they dredged the lake in the 1960s there was tons of Zeppelin wreckage pulled out.)

Oh well, too late there, so I turned my attention to and investigated the crash site of L-48, which was shot down in 1917. I had spectacular success there, the scenery had hardly changed in a century and bits of the Zeppelin could still be seen in the plough soil. The BBC film crew, under the superb direction of John Hayes-Fisher, arrived in the Suffolk cornfield and went on to produce an amazing documentary (**Fig.11**). I unearthed two very significant finds, a burned German Imperial Navy button (**Fig.12**) from one of the Zeppelin crew member's tunics and a fired British 0.303 bullet (**Fig.13**) which later research confirmed as having been fired by Captain Henry Saundby, flying a DH2 fighter. A British 0.303 bullet – oh my, we detectorists find thousands of these every year, and they all have a story to tell, but this example has the most fascinating of historical and confirmed provenances. For me as a collector of such things, to actually own a bullet which was one of many fired at L48, causing her destruction, is little short of incredible.

I have numerous other aviation-related artefacts and tales to tell, but for the time being I hope readers of the *Insider* have had their curiosity aroused by this brief foray into the world of aviation archaeology and some of its collectables.

For many more aviation and indeed other metal detecting adventures, Julian's autobiography *My Metal Detecting Life - 50 Years of Rambling in the Fields* (**Fig.14**) is available from his website www.mydetectinglife.co.uk.

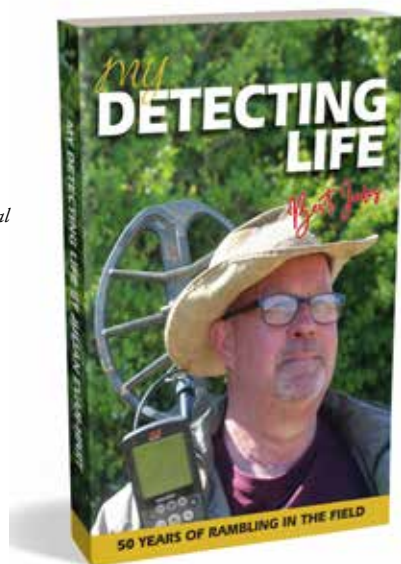


Fig.14. Front cover of the author's autobiography containing many more metal detecting adventures!



“the failure of the new paper money, the assignats, played a significant role in the development of and movement towards the more radical phase of the Revolution”



Assignat banknotes sold by Spink in the November e-Auction, 2023



Claudia Eco

NEW MONETARY PERSPECTIVES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Since the French Revolution of 1789 sent shockwaves throughout the globe, scholars have studied the causes for it and the effect it had on the concepts of freedom, autonomy and liberty – yet the role that currency played in the French Revolution has been a limited part of this analysis. Recent shifts in scholarship have focused more on the effects of currency, especially assignat banknotes, particularly in terms of its role in the radicalisation of the Revolution. That is, the circumstances resulting in the time known as the Reign of Terror which began five years into the Revolution in 1793. This article will review how recent numismatic histories of the Revolution, such as Rebecca Spang's book *Stuff and Money in the Time of the French Revolution*, have argued against previous notions that radicalisation during the Revolution was a product of central authorities and prominent radicals, and instead contend that economic perspectives prompted this more violent stage of the Revolution. In particular, the failure of the new paper money, the assignats, played a significant role in the development of and movement towards the more radical phase of the Revolution.

The majority of French Revolution narratives attribute the widespread radicalisation of the Revolution to be the fault of organisations and individuals. These institutions include governing and law-making bodies such as the National Assembly and the National Convention. Characters who are accredited a central role in radicalisation include canonical figures such as Maximilien Robespierre, Jean-Paul Marat and the extremist Jacobins political club. While these voices did indeed play important roles, a strong

case can be made that the principal culprit of the Revolution's radicalisation was France's monetary situation.

Economics and politics were very closely intertwined during the Revolution, with money being the focal point of this relationship. Money informed not only the economy but also politics, and as such played a significant role in the Revolution. Mainstream analyses have typically considered the Revolution to have been a political affair, but those politics were closely associated with the economy, and thus changes in money had resonating effects on the political sphere.

The entwining of money and politics is evidenced in several economic policies put forward by the Revolutionary bodies and organisations designed to address the ongoing contemporary financial crisis. One such policy, which appeared relatively early on in the Revolution, in late 1789, was what was known as the *contribution patriotique*, or patriotic tax. This exploited popular nationalist sentiment in order to coax the people of France to pay a quarter of their annual revenue in staggered payments. This tax represented one such way in which the National Assembly endeavoured to correct the ongoing deficit crisis in France. It also represented a marriage of politics and economics, using money as a method to prove allegiance to the nation through a kind of economic self-sacrifice, as well as to identify enemies of the Revolution as those who refused to pay the tax. This practice welcomed extremist nationalist behaviour against those simply unable to pay the tax, which invited radicalist fervour. The divisive attitudes caused by the *contribution patriotique* and the resulting unfavourable sentiments towards the government

as a whole contributed to the ongoing radicalisation.

Polarising effects were likewise seen in the new currency systems introduced by the government of the Revolution, namely the assignats. Assignats were paper banknotes introduced in 1789 and were intended to fix France's economic crisis and money shortage, grant freedom of wealth and strengthen public support for the Revolution. The economic and monetary policy of the new assignats also had underlying political motives. A number of National Assembly deputies believed that the assignats were a revolutionary system in augmenting economic freedom and liberty, and in doing so would increase political support. However, the assignats were not accepted into society the way many deputies had envisioned. They caused major economic problems, the most harmful of which was the devaluing of money. The devaluation of the new paper money led to severe hyperinflation, which further deteriorated the economic conditions and, in turn, produced social and political conflict.

The assignats and associated new monetary system caused an abundance of issues in all levels of society, resulting in a total monetary breakdown. Assignats were not widely trusted as the new currency and their legitimacy was a matter of personal opinion, inviting disagreement over daily transactions for members of every social class. The worsening economic crisis furthered already widespread socio-political polarisation, which was a primary factor in the growing radicalisation. Assignats not only failed to achieve their desired economic effect, but also failed in their political objective. Instead of harbouring unity and garnering support for the Revolution as idealised by National Assembly deputies, public sentiment followed that "lawmakers' dominant economic philosophy made the political ideal of national unity almost impossible to achieve". Members from all positions of society were negatively affected by the assignats, compounding their unpopularity. This unpopularity resulted from the vast array of problems sparked by the introduction and production of the new money. The expectations of the assignats on a political level illustrate how economics highly informed political decisions and efforts to garner support for the Revolutionary government. This failed attempt highlights the important role played by assignats in boosting extremism in France.

Trust in assignats was both political and economic. It was deeply political in that trusting the value of the

assignats was likened with patriotism, supporting both the revolution and the nation and all for which it stood. For some, "trusting in the paper's value was simply part of being a patriot". As such, persisting support for assignats came only from ardent revolutionaries. However, they were decidedly a minority and assignats' faults and the ensuing economic complications were widely recognised. These problems were severe enough to eventually sway many patriotic supporters, who were no longer able to reconcile notions of liberty with the assignats' forced circulation. This effectively summarises public opinion on the assignats and indicates the failure of the National Assembly's goal to fuse politics and economics with its new paper money. In its failure, the polarisation caused by the assignats and the resulting falling opinion of the government greatly contributed to radicalised chaos of the Reign of Terror.

The prominence of money and the notion that the extremism of the French Revolution was prompted by economic and monetary policy and its effects on the people represents a relatively recent scholastic argument. It contradicts the common narrative that radicalisation was predominantly generated by the actions and words of key individuals, and instead focuses on fiduciary impact. While intended to fulfil the National Assembly's loft political and economic goals, the newly introduced assignats failed to achieve their objectives and instead worsened France's economic and political situation, goading the country towards radicalisation. Assignats were not trusted by the French people and greatly decreased in value, leading to hyperinflation which exacerbated the nation's already dire economic state. The plethora of issues caused by the monetary system led to intense social and political strife, which brought on the radicalisation of the French Revolution.

References: Schama, Simon, *Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution* (Penguin, 1989); Spang, Rebecca, *Stuff and Money in the Time of the French Revolution* (Harvard University Press, 2017)

"The plethora of issues caused by the monetary system led to intense social and political strife, which brought on the radicalisation of the French Revolution"



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Wolseley with some of his Staff Officers at the Prahsu camp, early January 1874

“the Asantes of West Africa, now a large area within modern day Ghana, were a frequent thorn in the side of both the British military and politicians ”

British Troops under Asante attack. This image gives some idea of the chaotic nature of the fighting during the 1874 campaign
Asante 20: King Prempeh I on his way to exile in the Seychelles, 1896



Ashanti Medal 31 March to 25 December 1900





Dr Stephen Manning

BRITAIN AT WAR WITH THE ASANTE NATION “THE WHITE MAN’S GRAVE”

Throughout Queen Victoria’s long reign, her ‘Soldiers of the Queen’ were engaged in numerous conflicts against indigenous peoples across Africa and the Indian subcontinent. Whilst such nations as the Zulus and the dervish supporters of the Mahdi are, arguably, the best known of the Empire’s foes, the Asantes of West Africa, now a large area within modern day Ghana, were a frequent thorn in the side of both the British military and politicians throughout much of the nineteenth century. Indeed, in three major wars the British suffered significant military reversals.

The first of these defeats at the hands of the Asantes occurred on 22nd January 1824 at the battle of Nsamanko. Here the British Governor, Sir Charles McCarthy led a force of 500 British and native troops in a punitive assault against an Asante army which had crossed into the British Protectorate to reassert the nation’s claim of sovereignty over the coastal Fante people. The clash of arms was characterized by both farce and disaster as McCarthy seriously underestimated the military threat of the Asantes. The Governor’s view that Asante resistance would be nullified by the British band playing ‘God Save the King’ was met by a volley of musketry followed by the screams and drums of 10,000 Asantes who emerged from their jungle cover to overwhelm and slaughter the British. McCarthy’s folly ended with his brutal death.

The Asantes, under their King, Osei Yaw Akoto, now ravaged the coastal tribes, subjecting many to slavery and restricting the British to the

relative safety of the former slave castles, such as Elmina. It took over two years before the British and the coastal tribes were able to assemble a strong enough force to oppose the marauding Asantes. At the battle of Dodowa, on 7th August 1826, the Asante army was routed and under the Governorship of Sir Neil Campbell the British were able to establish an Embassy at the Asante capital of Kumasi from 1828.

The next five decades were characterised by volatile relations between the various Asante kings and the British who maintained a presence on the Gold Coast. Whilst the more pragmatic of the British Governors, such as Sir George Maclean, realised that peace, security and trade between Britain and the Asante nation would only be possible if the involvement of the Asantes in the lucrative slave trade with the Dutch and Portuguese was largely ignored, other Governors were more vocal in their opposition to this abhorrent enterprise. Relations deteriorated significantly when the Dutch decided to withdraw their interests along the Gold Coast to concentrate their resources on their Far East Empire. This decision resulted in a Treaty between the Dutch and the British in 1871 in which the British agreed to take political and administrative control of the whole of the Gold Coast and this was formally ratified in 1872, with the arrival of the new British Governor, Sir John Pope Hennessy. The Asante King, Kofi Korikari, quickly realised that the departure of the Dutch and the subsequent extension of British authority would mean that the continuation of the slave trade would place his people on a collision course with the British. With encouragement



from war like Chiefs at his court in Kumasi, the King was persuaded to make a pre-emptive strike against the British and in 1873 his army crossed over the River Prah, the natural border between Asante and British territory and headed for the coast. The British Government despatched a force of Royal Marines, who with the help of local forces, and West Indies Regiments were able to at least hold onto the British coastal forts, but the British presence was under serious threat.

Sir Garnet Wolseley, who had acquired fame and prestige for his command of the Red River Expedition in Canada four years before, was given command of a small force of 'special service officers' who were initially tasked with creating a force from local tribes to push the Asante army back across the Prah. Wolseley was very aware of the region's unforgiving climate which had provided the Gold Coast with the alternative name of 'The White Man's Grave' for Europeans, especially those recently arrived, who frequently succumbed to tropical diseases and dysentery. Indeed, the Royal Marines detachment had been decimated by illness and many of Wolseley's officers would likewise be stricken down. Wolseley realised that the local force he had been able to cobble together would be inadequate to destroy the military strength of the Asante and although Wolseley was able to push the invaders back across the Prah he knew that unless a strong British force was able to beat the Asante army decisively and take the capital of Kumasi hostilities would continue.

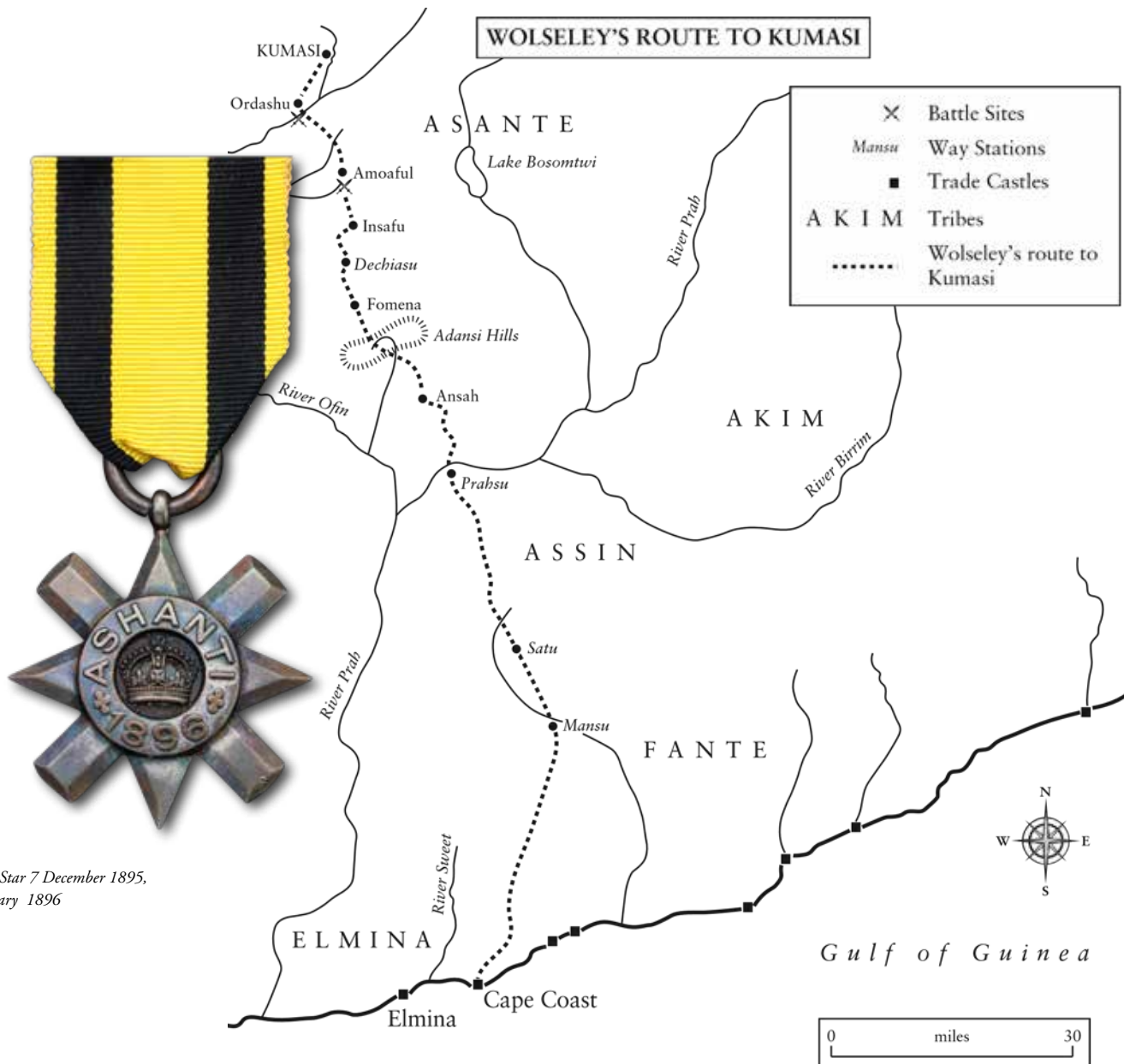
After months of campaigning Wolseley was finally able to persuade the government of William Gladstone to despatch a force of three regiments of British infantry: The Black Watch, The Rifles, and the Royal Welch Fusiliers, to the Gold Coast. With the inherent dangers from the climate Wolseley planned the campaign meticulously to minimise the risk to the troops. On their arrival the troops marched the seventy miles to the staging post for the invasion, at Prahsu. Under Wolseley's instruction seven stations were built, at roughly ten-mile intervals, so the men could rest in comfort before continuing their advance. Each of the stations had beds, bakeries, and water purifiers as well as hospital accommodation. In addition, the engineers had to construct 237 footbridges along the route so the men could keep their feet dry. Wolseley thought of everything; from



Ashantee Medal 9 June 1873, 4 February 1874



King Prempeh I on his way to exile in the Seychelles, 1896

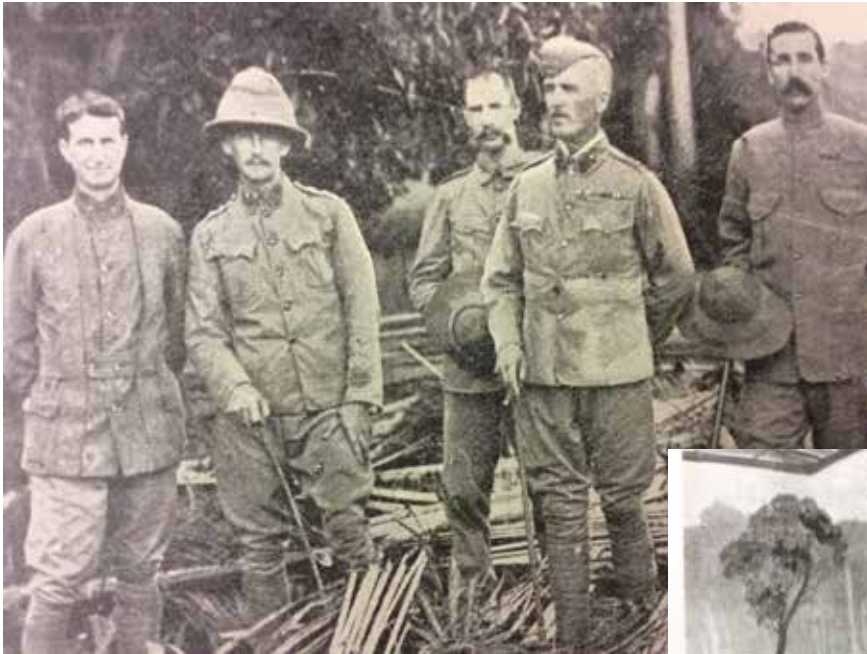


Ashanti Star 7 December 1895,
17 January 1896

the design of the men's uniforms which allowed for freer circulation, to their rations. Indeed, so well planned was the expedition that a phrase became in common usage which was 'All Sir Garnet' which referred to something being well planned or thought through.

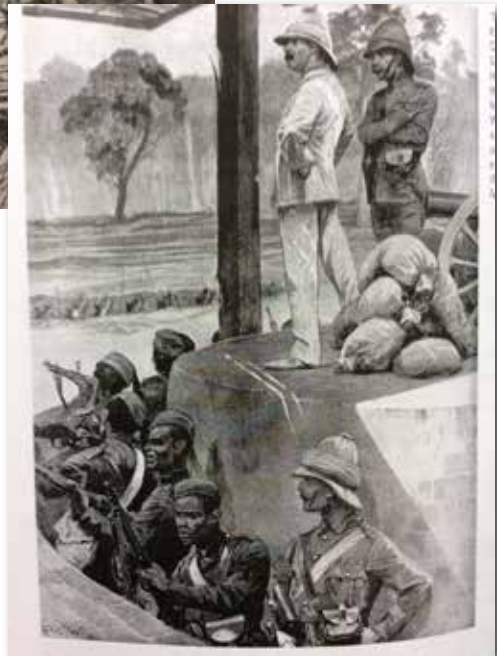
Once across the Pra the British troops met the Asante army in two pitched battles: at Amoaful (31st January 1874) and Ordashu (2nd February 1874). In both clashes the British fought in a moving square formation which kept the Asantes at bay as they attempted to envelope Wolseley's force. Although the British suffered many wounded,

the poor quality of the Asante ammunition and powder mercifully meant that there were few British battlefield fatalities. The same cannot be said for the Asantes for the British superiority in firepower, particularly the breechloading Snider rifle, claimed thousands of lives. Wolseley duly occupied Kumasi and burnt it to the ground when he departed with his now exhausted force back to the relatively benign climate of the coast. The war was unsatisfactorily concluded with the Treaty of Fomena in which the King agreed to renounce his claims over the coastal tribes and pay £50,000 in gold as reparation for the Asante invasion.



Colonel James Willcocks, second from right, commander of the Kumasi Relief Force

Governor Sir Frederick Hodgson, supervising the defences during the siege of Kumasi Fort, 1900



The next 20 years witnessed a decline in Asante power and prestige as a nation built on military conquest, and the enslavement of tribes that it had defeated, descended into infighting and civil war. The British exploited this weakened state and in 1896, using the excuse that the agreed payment of gold in the Treaty of Fomena had never been paid, a force of British troops, under the command of Major General Sir Francis C. Scott, marched on Kumasi to force the Asante nation under King Prempeh I to become a British Protectorate. The King was in no position to offer any resistance to the British and despite accepting British sovereignty over his lands he was sent into exile to the Seychelles. Although a bloodless campaign the British had forgotten some of the lessons from Wolseley's expedition and several men succumbed to the climate, including Queen Victoria's son in law, Prince Henry of Battenberg, as well as her grandson, Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig Holstein. A British mission was established at Kumasi and the Asante nation finally seemed to have ended its warlike days.

The British Empire was graced by many good servants, but also had its fair share of incompetent and arrogant officials and the Gold Coast seemed to attract such men. One of these was Governor Sir Frederick Hodgson who on his appointment decided to tour the British Protectorate and visited Kumasi. Here he demanded that as the

senior official of Queen Victoria in the country he had a right to sit on the Asante Golden Stool and demanded that it be made available. By making this demand Hodgson displayed a staggering amount of ignorance for not only was the stool too small to sit on, but it was also, and still is, completely sacred to the Asante people. Even today it is kept in a secret location, only appearing in a public ceremony every five years.

The Asante chiefs, led in opposition by the former Queen Mother, refused Hodgson's demands and the situation was further enflamed when the Governor ordered British troops to seek out the Golden Stools whereabouts. Hodgson's insensitivity was rewarded by outright rebellion from thousands of Asantes and Hodgson and a



Taking the final Asante Stockade during the relief of Kumasi, 15th July 1900



British force was besieged in the newly built British fort in Kumasi. The siege lasted from 25th April to 15th July 1900 and was only lifted with the arrival of a column commanded by Colonel James Willcocks. With the British forces already heavily engaged in South Africa, most of the relieving troops came from West

African detachments such as the Gold Coast Constabulary and the West African Regiment which was stationed in nearby Sierra Leone. The aftermath was a brutal one in which many of the rebel chiefs were either hung, imprisoned, or exiled to the Seychelles by the victorious British. Ironically many of the surviving Asantes were to later serve in the Gold Coast Regiment, which in 1914 invaded and captured German Togoland and later fought in the Cameroon and East Africa campaigns. The grandsons of the rebels were to then serve in the Regiment with distinction in both Burma and Abyssinia in the Second World War.

Campaign Medals

The British defeat in January 1824 at the hands of Asante army was never recognised as a campaign and no medal was issued.

Participants of Wolseley's successful expedition of 1873/4 received the Ashantee Medal, which was sanctioned on 1st June 1874. The 'Coomassie' (the then British name for the Asante capital Kumasi) bar was granted to all present at the battle of Amoafu and the subsequent advance onto the Asante capital and to those troops who served north of the Prah River to keep open the lines of communication. A total of 6,321 medals were issued, of which 2,422 had the 'Coomassie' bar. In addition, four Victoria Crosses were awarded.

The Ashanti Star was awarded in 1896 to members of Major General Sir Francis C. Scott's expedition to Kumasi which was sent to force the Asante nation under King Prempeh I to become a British Protectorate. This was a bloodless campaign in which the Asantes offered no armed resistance. A total of 1,915 medals were issued, including 837 to a force of Hausa troops.

Although the last campaign against the Asante nation took place during Queen Victoria's reign, The Ashanti Medal was first awarded in the reign of Edward VII and was issued in silver (5,524) and bronze (900+), the latter of which was given to native porters and levies. The 'Kumasi' bar was awarded to all who had garrisoned Kumasi between 31 March and 15 July 1900, and to those who were members of the relieving columns. Two Victoria Crosses were awarded during the action to relieve Kumasi. The campaign took place at the height of the Boer War and the troops employed came largely from local regiments, such as the King's African Rifles, the Northern Nigeria Regiment, and the Gold Coast Constabulary.

Dr Stephen Manning recently retired as a Research Fellow at the University of Exeter, where he specialised in Victorian Military History. He has written numerous books on the subject including *Britain at War with the Asante Nation, 1823 to 1900*. His most recent work is a military reassessment of Wolseley entitled *Sir Garnet Wolseley, Soldier of Empire*, available from Pen & Sword.



This fourrée stater would have appeared to be silver in antiquity, but its copper core is now visible



Tetradrachms of Alexander the Great circulated widely and were therefore often chiselled to test for silver purity - this one has a relatively unobtrusive test cut to to the left of Herakles' eye



The serrated denarius was an interesting invention, but relatively unsuccessful in preventing forgeries (this is a non-fourée example)



By Louis Brickell

THE 'FOURÉE' IN ANTIQUITY

In the British Museum's Money Room there is a display of fake British one pound coins. The description tells us that, before the introduction of its bimetallic replacement in 2017, one in 35 circulating £1 coins was counterfeit. And just next to this is another display case, also featuring forgeries produced while the coins circulated. But this time Roman coins, millennia old. Ever since the dawn of coinage, forgers have produced copies which plagued their users, but nowadays they are some of the most interesting pieces of numismatic history.

In antiquity, unlike today, the most valuable coins were made of silver and gold and gained their value from the inherent worth of the metals. The most common method of forgery was to therefore abuse this, producing a coin that looked like it was made of precious metal but was instead full of worthless base metal. Forgers would achieve this by striking the design (of the coin to be imitated) on copper and applying a very thin coating of silver. The base metal blank would have either been covered with silver foil before striking or added afterwards - the latter would require less precious metal and therefore be even more profitable. And it is this 'stuffing' of copper that gives us the technical term for these plated forgeries - 'fourée', derived from the French.

Of course, these fakes were a massive issue for the state; they 'produced illicit gains at their expense', and 'to the detriment of the general acceptability of the coinage' (*Coinage in the Greek World*, Carradice and Price). And so, measures were put in place to spot fourées among genuine coins. The most common response was the 'test cut', where a state official or (more likely) a merchant would chisel a coin to check whether it was made of good metal to its core. While this was successful for the most part, some forgers were able to adapt, instead producing

fourées with a test cut engraved into the die used to strike the coin. This ingenious idea is the reason why many silver coins of the period have multiple cuts; there was no way to be certain the previous test cut was not just another part of the scam.

During the time of the Roman Republic, a curious development in coin production attempted to eliminate the issue of fourées: denarii were produced serrated with small chisel marks around the coin's edge: this way, users could see through to the coin's interior (these edges theoretically being much more challenging to plate). This was relatively unsuccessful, however, and plated forgeries of serrated denarii exist.

The story of how counterfeiters were able to make money in producing fake coins and adapt to stay one step ahead of the state is therefore a most interesting one, and fortunately a great deal of fourées survive. For the collector, they are much easier to detect now than in antiquity; we're lucky that there's no need to chisel into the coin anymore! In most cases, time will have worn away some of the silver, leaving obvious spots with the copper core exposed. And if this is not the case, a much lower weight than what is to be expected is a telltale sign: copper has a lower density than silver or gold. These plated forgeries are often neglected, likely because of their comparatively reduced aesthetic appeal (having spots where the copper core is visible), but they are crucial to our understanding of the constant struggle between the state and bad money. Ultimately, even if they stemmed from deceit and frustrated merchants for centuries, fourées, in travelling through time alongside their official counterparts, are now an undeniable and fascinating part of numismatic history.

For further articles and blog posts on ancient coins, numismatics and history please visit Louis's website, <https://www.ancientnumis.com>.



R14088 Kazan 100R



R1573A Balakovich 10R



R14057 BMF Black Sea 25R



Alan M Cole

RUSSIAN PAPER CURRENCY: A LIFETIME OF COLLECTING

If it is a bit showy to admit to being a paper currency collector for over 55 years, let me modestly say that I have enjoyed this pursuit for a very long time. Starting early with an east European ancestry, I found it edifying to learn about Slavonic and Ugrian cultures.

My first note (before becoming collector conscious) was a heavily folded but colourful 1,000 Ruble bill from 1917, once owned by a survivor of the Bolshevik Revolution. Later in my youthful travels other items of Czech, Polish and Russian money, almost uncirculated, somehow appeared tucked down my socks on my return to London. I had been visiting several Polish and Ukrainian universities as a student.

In the 1970s my then trivial accumulation of banknotes began to grow, as I learned more about the historical evidence which foreign currencies provided. Those rectangular tokens from the past century offered me a profound sense of the joys and sufferings of continental peoples since the Napoleonic Wars. Of course, I tried to digest the narratives of eighteenth and nineteenth century treaties, migrations and wars. In the mid-1970s the International Bank Note Society was recommended to me. Many of its members have been invaluable friends in collecting and research.

Gathering currency bills for their good looks or geographical fascination is an excellent hobby,

and for many it is just that. Today, as the IBNS Journal shows, the detailed study and knowledge of printed money (commonly called 'banknotes') is a specific science with its own theories and conclusions. As I discovered through the years, many books in their respective languages have been researched and published to the benefit of collectors and the wider public: economists, print technologists, war historians and political analysts.

From all of eastern and central Europe, with a collection once approaching 10,000 pieces, I realised the need to specialise, to limit my range to proportions I could readily handle. With some reluctance, I gradually delivered much prized collections of historic notes from former imperial and communist states to the auction markets, hoping that they would find appreciative homes. Even though I had relinquished ownership, I disliked the notion that they would increase in price to a level putting them out of reach of dedicated researchers. In this way I reduced myself to a semi-expert in the Russian paper notes of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

As I write, I limit myself to four fields of Russian currency only: Imperial Russia to the October/November Revolution; Soviet State notes to 1947; provincial bills of about thirty countries federated into the greater Soviet Union; and finally, tokens and emergency monies issued by companies and institutions of a local or private nature. In general, this last category dates between 1915 and 1925.

Thinking that I had a 'collector's duty' to understand the significance of my notes, I continued over the years to index and house

“I remain an enthusiast both for pastime note collecting and its more serious cousin, the numismatic science of currency history”



R15944 Rostov 25R

the collection to a viewing advantage. Dependent upon expertise well beyond my own, I relied first on the taxonomy of the Albert Pick catalogues (now SCWPM). Thereafter my principal reference was to the catalogues of PF Ryabchenko and BI Butko (1990, 1995, 2000); then of M Istomin. With these and numerous other specialists I gladly took advice, not least from the published work of Dr MV Khodjakov (2014).

Friends will at once recognise that my note collection is able to shed light for western readers on the Russian Civil Wars leading to the foundation of the USSR. On invitation I have given lectures and talks on the Russia I experienced whilst in post there in the last decade of communist rule. I have learned not to tell Russians a history known better by their own scholars, but rather to allow well-researched paper bills and tokens to recite their own historical narratives.

About a century after most notes in my collection were emitted as negotiable cash, I have selected a large number of them to describe and explain for English speakers, especially aspiring collectors, how they originated. In publishing colour illustrations of these, I have aimed to offer a numismatic and historical-geographical context in response to what has perhaps been an insufficient appreciation of the changed economic system after the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II in 1917. I am hopeful that my first book on this subject, focusing on regions and cities, may be supplemented by a second looking at a selection of the 30,000 known issues of 'Russian' printed money, examined thematically.

Banknotes, bills, cheques and vouchers are documents produced for purchase of goods and services. Following their period of circulation, they are usually cancelled or destroyed, to be replaced by other spending systems. Survivors by accident or as souvenirs may become archival, so laying the



R1613 Kansk 200R



R16671 Tiflis 5R



R23261 Vladivostok 10R



R27056 Fudzyadyan 3R



R3549 Mineralne Vodi 100R



R4326 Tsaritsyn Kut 3R



R5482 Irkutsk 3R



R8797 Bolshevo 2R



R6227 Zairkutny 5R



ground for research into paper manufacture, print and security techniques and recent economic history. These frequently carry with them memories of war and peace, heroism and loyalties, no less the fortunes of their countries of origin.

Thankful that simple collecting beginnings led me to learn more about the popular uses of cash in several parts of the world, I remain an enthusiast both for pastime note collecting and its more serious cousin, the numismatic science of currency history.

Provincial Russian Notes of the Revolution and Civil War 1917-1923 by Alan M Cole will be published by Spink Books in 2024.

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PADHARO MHANE DESH
WELCOME TO MY LAND –
SLOGAN OF JAIPUR



“Jaipur is a city that will take your breath away with its beauty and history”
Rabindranath Tagore (famous Indian poet – The Bard of Bengal)



Tim Robson

‘Jaipur is the perfect blend of tradition and modernity’

I have to admit that I love India; the colours, the vibrancy, the contrasts, the various peoples, the history. I first went some 30 years ago when it was very different, almost still regarded as part of the Empire; now it is on its way to being a superpower, the largest democracy on the planet, with a strong Nationalist leader who is changing the country rapidly. But escape the huge cities and life in the rural areas continues as it has for centuries.

Getting to Jaipur, formerly Jeypore, home to three million people plus and the tenth largest city in India, capital of Rajasthan State, is not too arduous; it is about 150 miles from Delhi, but getting out of Delhi can take two hours. The roads are good, once clear of the environs of Delhi, and there is lots to see along the way if you are prepared to stop and look. Being part of the Golden Triangle tourist circuit, it does get crowded both with Indian couples (it is one of India’s most romantic places to get married) as well as foreign tourists. The best months to visit are December to February - July to August is the monsoon.

“Jaipur is the perfect blend of tradition and modernity” Mahatma Gandhi

Trying to do any sort of potted history of India is impossible – I recommend the podcast

Empire if you want an easy-to-digest, expertly run show on the history of India. You cannot avoid history as it shapes everything in India, from the small Rajput kingdoms to the Mughals to the princely kingdoms that replaced them. Rivalry and wars between these kingdoms shaped India, exploited by the British (originally by the East India Company, then by Imperial rule), who through war and stealth played them off against each other to rule over India. This culminated in the dreadful partition which resulted in two Pakistans separated by India in between. Whilst the Maharajas lost their positions and their power after Independence, they are still influential and many very rich. The wealth of Jaipur was outstanding and still is; the current “unofficial” Maharaj, Padmanabh Singh and his family, are reputedly worth \$600 – \$800 million. The family recently have applied to be compensated for the land that the Taj Mahal is built on, maintaining that it was improperly compensated by Shah Jahan.

The city was founded in 1727 by Ja Singh II, the powerful ruler of Amer, laid out on a grid pattern, as is obvious today, to benefit from the source of water and give more space for expansion (his new capital). Being situated between and amongst hills it was also perfect for defence. The moniker of the “Pink City” was gained after





Sawai Ram Singh had the City painted pink to welcome the Prince of Wales in 1876; pink being the traditional colour representing hospitality.

As previously mentioned, Jaipur is a city of culture and traditional crafts; Anokhi, carpet weaving, jewellery manufacture and stones as well as the world famous Jaipur Literary Festival. The latter, which takes place in January, was founded in 2006 at the Diggi Palace Hotel and grew in attendance from a few hundred to 30,000 plus now. Speakers come from all over the world to attend the event, exchange views, form partnerships to write books and enjoy the splendour of the gathering. One of the founder members, the historian William Dalrymple, will be familiar to many readers for his books on India and for his popular podcast Empire, mentioned above.

Have you topped up your credit card? Jaipur has many ways to tempt those Pounds, Dollars and Euros from your wallet or purse! Anokhi is the traditional method of block printing, used for textiles and clothing, using traditional dyes. You can see this in action at some of the large

shops selling the end products as you can for magnificent carpets, woven on the premises and in outlying villages to Jaipur. Don't be put off the size and how to get your purchases home; they ship worldwide. Jewellery, suits and shirts, dresses etc can be measured, ordered and delivered within 24 hours, often from the same place. Silver jewellery is made here in both traditional and modern designs, including enamelling. All silver is sterling. Marble too is fashioned into beautiful tables, furniture and art. There is in addition a thriving art community which concentrates on miniature paintings, superbly intricate, with the current Maharaj continuing the court appointment of artists.

Now that you have sated your thirst for shopping, time to visit an unusual observatory at Jantar Mantar, one of five across India and the largest. Jai Singh II was a keen scholar and astrologer and had the observatory constructed in 1718 with nineteen fixed measuring instruments, using shadows and the position of the sun to tell time, to predict the movement of the stars. The latter makes the observatory



‘Anokhi, carpet weaving, jewellery manufacture and stones as well as the world famous Jaipur Literary Festival’

extremely popular with couples who need astrological data as part of the arranged marriage process. Well worth a visit.

In the centre of the old town is the famous Hawa Mahal or “Palace of Winds”, with its distinctive pinkish colour and over 953 windows facing the street. The building is slightly curved and was built to resemble Lord Krishna’s crown; a place for the Royal ladies to watch street life without being seen. This whole area is full of shops, street hustlers and colourful life.

Before you ascend the hill to the Amer Palace and Jaigarh Fort, stop along the promenade next to Man Sagar Lake and see the Jal Mahal. Although built on five floors, only the top floor is visible and appears to float on the lake. Beware of pickpockets here, who are everywhere.

No visit to Jaipur is complete (after shopping of course) without going to Amer Palace (or Amber Palace), situated some 10 kilometres

outside the city centre, perched on a series of hills with a lake in the foreground, with reflections of the fortifications. The Palace is a series of four areas all with courtyards and is a mix of pale yellow and pink sandstone with lots of white marble. Through the gates come decorated elephants that you can ride if you wish, adding colour to this beautiful place. On the top of the surrounding hills is the Jaigarh Fort connected by tunnels to the Palace, with its thick walls and towers. Either on your way up or down stop at one of India’s prettier and complete Bathing Wells at Panna Meena Ka Kund. Bathing Wells were designed in the geometric patterns you see there that dazzle the eye to collect monsoon water and preserve it. These places were social gathering sites for washing clothes, bathing and catching up on gossip.

From Jaipur you can extend your visit to a number of other wonderful places, most visitors go from here to Agra, and as my partner had never been that is where we set off for – sad as always to leave Jaipur.

OBITUARIES

JOHN WILLIAM MUSSELL 1942—2023

John Mussell, Group Managing editor and founder of Token Publishing Ltd, sadly passed away on 7th September 2023. During his 40 years at Token, John oversaw the production a large number of numismatic publications, including the monthly magazines *Coin News* and *Medal News* (and their forerunner *Coin & Medal News*), the regular *Coin Yearbook*, *Banknote Yearbook* and *Medal Yearbook*, as well as a host of other numismatic and medallic titles.

John started work in print and publishing some 65 years ago and, following a job at Harmer's the Stamp Auctioneers compiling and editing their catalogues, he joined Epic Publishing in 1981 to edit their title *Coin & Medal News*, the magazine that had previously been published by Stanley Gibbons as *Coins & Medals*. Two years later Epic, an American Company, decided to pull out of the UK and John and his then wife Mary bought the title. They founded Token Publishing Ltd in April 1983; the company has just celebrated its Ruby Anniversary.

He was a regular at coin shows over the years, particularly the London Coin Fair and Coinex (although he'd make an appearance from time to time at the Midland Show too), where he was often accompanied by his wife Carol (who joined the company in 1990) and son Philip (who joined in 1996). He also, when he could, attended the international shows; in particular he loved going to Dublin, Hong Kong and Singapore.

John was a keen coin collector, with a particular interest in shillings, although other



later hammered silver featured heavily in his collection too; he especially liked the realism of the Tudor obverses. He was a keen metal detectorist as well and, back in the 1980s, founded the metal detecting magazine *The Searcher*.

He will be sorely missed by all who knew him – whether personally or through the pages of the magazines he cared so passionately about; but his legacy will live on with Carol and Philip, who have both been directors of the company themselves for over two decades, who are determined to make sure of that.

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SALE CALENDAR 2023 / 24

December 2023

7 December	World Banknotes - e-Auction	London	23231
12-13 December	The "Haddenham" Collection of English Coins	London	23005
11 December	Priceless Drams Whisky E-auction	Hong Kong	SFW51
14 December	The St Helier Collection of English Gold Coins	London	23051
14 December	The Official Golden BNTA Anniversary Charity Auction	London	23050

January 2024

12 January	World Banknotes at NY INC	New York	391
14 January	The Numismatic Collector's Series Sale at NY INC	New York	392
18 January	The Alan Yuhas Collection of US, Ancient and World Coins - e-Auction	New York	393
18 January	The Mark T. Ray Collection of English Banknotes Part II - e-Auction	London	23999
21 January	Banknotes, Bonds & Shares and Coins of China and Hong Kong	Hong Kong	CSS100
23 January	The Perry Goldberg collection of First Issues of the World, including Outstanding Indian Feudatory States	London	24010
24 January	The 'Connaught' Collection of Hong Kong, Part 1	Hong Kong	CSS102
24 January	Stamps and Covers of the World	London	24011
25 January	Fine Stamps and Covers of China and Hong Kong	Hong Kong	CSS101
25 January	The Lionheart Collection of Great Britain and British Empire Part XVIII	London	24012
26 January	Spink Numismatic e-Circular 33: British and World Coins - e-Auction	London	23129
29 January	World Banknotes - e-Auction	London	23900
29 January	Orders, Decorations, Medals and Militaria - e-Auction	New York	397
30 January	U.S. and World Banknotes - e-Auction	New York	396
31 January	The Philatelic Collector's Series - e-Auction	London	24115
31 January	Coins, Commemorative Medals, Autographs and Documents - e-Auction	New York	394

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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