

NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF IRELAND
BULLETIN 82
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From the Editor

Bulletin number 82 has been completed, many thanks to all the contributors. As we approach mid-way into 2025, I cannot help thinking that BANS 2026, to be held in Dublin, is just around the corner. It is a time where we can really showcase Irish numismatics and help advance the hobby in a big way.

In regard to articles for the bulletin, they are always welcome, & if you have a few photographs of a series of Irish coins that can be used on the front cover, please send them along.

Your anonymity is assured if you prefer. Also, if you have a favourite medal, you might send along photos. If you know its provenance that would be very interesting too.

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Cover coins/tokens description—August 1689 Gunmoney shilling

Numismatic Society of Ireland –Meetings

April 2024 – Sept 2024

Ely House, 8 Ely Place, Dublin 2

By Murray Smith Hon. Secretary

**Ordinary Meeting of the Numismatic Society of Ireland
Friday, 19th April 2024 The meeting began at 8.00 p.m.**

The Chairman, Greg Carley, welcomed all.

The Secretary, Murray Smith, announced the winner of the Written Competition for 2024: Ronan Fitzpatrick, the Society's Publications Editor, with '*Representing heraldic colour on coins, tokens and medals*'.

The competition's judge, Oisín Mac Conamhna, also recommended - due to the high quality of the entries - two runners up: Garry Byrne, the Society's Librarian, with '*The PAS finds of Gunmoney and Limerick money in England & Wales*' and member Ian d'Alton, with "'*The magpie, the squirrel, the sheer joy of the chase*' - *the collector goes about his business*".

The Committee accepted his recommendation, said the Secretary, who thanked him and all six entrants.

The Chairman then spoke about a number of things. He praised the Treasurer, Peter O'Reilly, for having 'rescued' the Society's EBS account from dormancy, and checking members who were defaulting on paying their subscriptions, calling him a 'worthy successor' to himself, the previous Treasurer. The *Occasional Papers* for 2024 were posted to members, he said; and the latest *Bulletin* would be posted in May.

He spoke about last month's BANS Congress in Exeter, saying that 100 delegates were present and an 'excellent' two days were spent there. The Society was asked if it could host the 2026 Congress in Dublin, as it had in 2006, the Committee's response being 'very supportive'.

He and Committee members Alan Keogh and Michael Kenny met when in Exeter with the BANS Committee, to agree in principle to the request.

The next project was the continuing issue of the lack of patronage from the Central Bank of Ireland for the last three years, the refusal to pay invoices sent being blamed on Covid.

Greg was invited to be a member of the CBI's Commemorative Coin Advisory Group, which he accepted. Once he had "his feet under the table", he said, he could look at what the CBI could do for the Society.

He said that the Society's website needed a redesign; that his auction house, O'Reilly's, would have an auction of a collection of sequential Irish Lady Lavery banknotes; and he finished by saying that the Coin Fair in the RDS would be this Sunday, and the next Society meeting on Friday, 17th May, something he repeated at the end of the meeting.

The Secretary then announced the main business of the meeting: Ronan Fitzpatrick, who spoke online about 'The Joy of Collecting Irish Academic Medals'.

First, a comparison of Irish academic medals with military medals; second, the joys and sorrows of the published literature; third, some examples from his medal cabinet; fourth, insights, discoveries and stories; fifth, what is still to be discovered; and sixth, relevant groups. This was, he said, the product of his research over 35-40 years.

He compared more familiar orders, decorations and military awards, and historical and commemorative medals, with academic and agricultural awards (such as medals given by Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and the Royal Dublin Society (RDS)); music awards (such as medals given for specific events, such as Feis Ceoil and Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, and by specific organisations, such as Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM), and the College of Music); sports awards; art medals; and religious medals.

Looking more specifically at awards in Ireland for academic achievement, the speaker spoke about medals being awarded for achievements at primary, intermediate and university levels, as well as by professional organisations. A group could ‘very easily’ be put together, he said. Collectors of such medals, he explained, get an ‘inbuilt provenance’, due to them being ‘uniquely named’. The speaker gave examples of organisations engraving all their medals, something that supports all research for medal groups.

He showed photographs of some of the earliest engraved medals, not his, from TCD, awarded by its Philosophical Society in 1788 and its History Society in 1794 and 1795.

The speaker then discussed the literature available, concluding sorrowfully that it was not as comprehensive as it should be. While it was good to have Arthur Went’s illustrated booklet of 50-60 RDS medals, the photography of the day, while ‘magnificent’ then, was 50-60 years old, showing the resulting difficulties of identification and comparison.

Other sorrows for him were that he was unable to identify many jeweller medallists, research images, and 20th century medallists; but joys for him were being able to identify the awardees of medals given by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland in 1880-1920.

He showed photographs of some of his medals, starting with TCD ones, saying that one of his joys was coming across new medals not recorded or that needed checking. When he did a talk for the Gilbert Library in Pearse Street, he was shown a medal awarded to Abraham (Bram) Stoker in 1870! He then showed photos of medals awarded by the Intermediate Education Board, University College Dublin, the Incorporated Law Society, and the post-independence Department of Education, discussing the designs and designers, including Oliver Sheppard. He then talked about, and illustrated from his collection, commemorative medals in general, including those issued by educational institutions, again TCD; the pre-independence Science and Art Department; and the Intermediate Education Board.

In terms of the latter, his particular joy was being able to find, in its Annual Reports, the names and details of all who took exams, and who were awarded medals, which he felt was a wonderful resource for genealogists.

He spoke about the Royal College of Science for Ireland, later eventually subsumed into UCD, and its buildings being the Departments of the Taoiseach and Finance, then showed three medals it awarded, part of ‘the joys’. Other medals he showed were those awarded by the City and Guilds of London; four by the RIAM to the same person, an organist in Trinity Church on Stephen’s Green; and four by TCD to an officer in that college’s Officer Training Corps: Ernest H. Alton.

Ronan said that Alton, when a student in TCD, was awarded *all* four gold medals a student could win: Vice-Chancellor medal for Latin; Bishop Berkeley medal for Greek; Wray medal for Logics and Ethics; and the Vice-Chancellor medal for Classics in Greek or Latin prose. He became a Fellow of the College in 1905, and was Captain of the TCD OTC, which had a significant armoury. He was in command of the Trinity Garrison during the 1916 Rising, approaching students to defend the college, which they did until the regular army arrived; and the Trinity OTC was the only one in the British Army’s history to defend its university. He finished with a Lady Plunkett Memorial Medal awarded to a student of the Church of Ireland Clergy Daughters’ School in 1901. Sadly, the awardee died the same year; and that medal may have been worn in remembrance by another person.

When the speaker finished at 9.28 p.m., there followed several questions and comments. Chris Budesá asked if such medals were still issued. He was told that they were by some organisations, such as TCD and the RDS, although the Board of Intermediate Education was wound up in 1923.

Oisín Mac Conamhna commented that UCD was still issuing such medals in the 1980s. Others commented that NIHE Limerick (later the University of Limerick) and the DIT (later the Technological University Dublin) issued medals, Tom Ryan being a designer for the former.

Alan Keogh asked about why 1591 was on many TCD medals, and not 1592, when the College was set up. The speaker said he did not know, suggesting that perhaps 1591 was when the University of Dublin was founded, as distinct from its first (and only) college, Trinity College, in 1592.

The Secretary spoke about the Bishop Berkley medal for Greek awarded by TCD to Oscar Wilde, that he held on to despite the significant changes in his later life; and that a member of the Medal Society of Ireland had written a history of TCD's OTC. Michael Kenny spoke about having bought 7 large TCD silver medals for €100 each, of which he kept 2 or 3, and sold 2 or 3 to the speaker. He complemented the latter on his photographs of the medals, to which the speaker gave two tips on taking such photos and showed his two cameras.

The Chairman, after he called for a vote of thanks for the speaker, closed the meeting at 9.46 p.m.; and the discussions continued in Doheny and Nesbitt's with refreshments.

**Ordinary Meeting of the Numismatic Society of Ireland
Friday, 17th May 2024 The meeting began at 8.05 p.m.**

The Chairman, Greg Carley, welcomed all, including new member Thomas Collins, saying that it was the last meeting of the year 2023-2024.

He began by saying that John Rainey asked it to be mentioned that the British Numismatic Society would be visiting the Royal Mint on 13th July; and that the BANS Autumn Weekend would be in Litchfield on 6th – 8th September.

The programme for the next year, 2024-2025, was, he said, being pulled together by the Secretary. There would be a committee meeting on Saturday. While there were no confirmed dates, there might be coin fairs in the RDS in October 2024 and March 2025. There might be a coin fair in the Europa Hotel in Belfast next month, as there had been on 10th June 2023.

He talked about the Society's need to have a decent website, and having the finances to hire a web developer. He joined the Central Bank of Ireland's Commemorative Coin Advisory Group, which also had fellow members John Stafford-Langan and Evan Salholm. While proceedings are confidential, he confirmed that its inaugural meeting took place yesterday. The Chairman then handed over proceedings to the Secretary, Murray Smith, with the consent of those present. The Secretary began by saying that the Programme for 2024-2025 would soon be sent to members.

The Secretary then read out the minutes of the meeting of 19th May 2023, which were unanimously approved by those present. He finished by saying that the planned visit of a party of members to the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland at Kildare Street at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 5th June would not go ahead. The College's Keeper of Collections, Harriet Wheelock, gave the proviso that she would only be able to confirm three weeks in advance whether it would go ahead.

The building would be closed over the summer due to redecoration; and it would reopen for the week starting Monday, 19th August, Heritage Week. She offered to facilitate a visit by a group of members on a date that week. The Secretary said he would check with members to see if any were available to visit around that date.

The Secretary then handed proceedings to Committee member Alan Keogh, who began the main business of the meeting: Five speakers talking about books or catalogues of numismatic interest that they liked:

1. Alan Keogh: The Committee member spoke about the magazine *Irish Numismatics*, published by Stagecast Publishing, Dublin, from March 1968 to December 1983, over 96 issues, edited by Derek Young. He said that he had acquired Nos 1-10 recently, and

that the magazines contained a lot of information about Irish numismatics, which was ‘really hard to get’ in other sources. He showed the front cover of No. 14 from 1970, with a queue outside the Shelbourne Hotel for the first Irish International Coin Fair; and that of No. 16, dealing with ‘Mystery of the Limerick Soviet Notes’. He had ‘practically most of the set now’, recommending them for their information.

Comments following the presentation included the now high price of the issues, particularly in large quantities, one commentator regretting that he threw his away at the time!

The Publications Editor, Ronan Fitzpatrick, said that after *Irish Numismatics* ceased as a stand-alone magazine, it continued as a special section in *Coin & Medal News*, later in *Coin News*, published by Token Publishing, of which he had those issues.

2. Murray Smith: The Secretary spoke about Paul Hieronymussen’s *Orders, Medals and Decorations of Britain and Europe in Colour*, a reprint of a second UK edition from 1975, of a Danish original edition of 1966. It was a general reference book of the then current official Orders of all European countries that may be conferred on their own citizens and on those of other countries. Particularly notable were an ‘atlas’ of the Orders, of 80 colour plates of 450 separate items, of which he showed slides of examples; and an encyclopaedia of the orders depicted, with detailed information on the items photographed. The presenter said he came across the work in his local public library when a teenager, then bought a copy in his mid- twenties. He enjoyed finding out about some Orders, medals and decorations he’d never heard of, such as the Icelandic Order of the Falcon (1921); and others that he had, but only vaguely. The book fed into his interest in history, and his education in it in school and university. It was one of the first books that made him particularly aware that, like all reference books. He said, showing examples, that it was ‘colourful’ in every sense of the word, and must have been even more so when it first appeared in 1966. He was still impressed by it, and by all those who had worked on it. He concluded that while he did not recommend it as a contemporary reference guide to European orders, medals and decorations, due to the long passage of time, he did so as a knowledgeable, practical, and still colourful reference guide for the time in which it appeared, still impressive, still useful in many parts, and a tribute to all those who worked on it.

3. Michael Kenny: The Committee member and former Chairman spoke about C.C.Chamberlain’s *The Teach-Yourself Guide to Numismatics: An ABC of Coins and Coin Collecting* (1960), the first book he bought on coins, in Manchester in 1961. He was 19, a collector for ten years; but he knew ‘very little’ about coins, not knowing that there was an international market for them. The book is not an academic one, but a guidebook for a small collector. He quoted extensively from it, particularly the Introduction. The book ‘kindled my interest’ in coins, he said.

At the time, he knew ‘nothing’ about Irish coins, the book making him find out about Inchiquin, Ormond, and Rebel money. He learned quickly, became ‘hooked’ on coins, and said that over the years, he referred to it again and again. That book reminded him of the need to encourage new people in numismatics, and like it, guide them.

Questioned, the presenter said that the author wrote another book which he had, and that the latter’s favourite coin was the Triple Unite.

4. Alan Dunlop: The Northern Branch member spoke online about a number of works by Thomas Snelling (1712-73), a coin dealer and bookseller, trading at an address in Fleet Street, London. He was a dealer and numismatist of some standing, one client being anatomist and physician William Hunter, founder of the Hunterian Collection in

Glasgow, including a famous coin collection. He showed slides of works by him on English coins from 1759 to 1776, including *A View of the Silver Coin and Coinage of England*, (1762); *A View of the Gold Coin and Coinage of England* (1763); and *A View of the Copper Coin and Coinage of England* (1766), which included lead and tin coins and tokens. Showing slides of illustrations, including some Irish coins. He particularly concentrated on *A View of the Origin, Nature, and Use of Jettons or Counters* (1769), due to his collecting of jettons, illustrating the book with a slide of English and Continental ones. He finished by saying a supplement by Snelling was in *Simon's Essay on Irish Coins* (1810).

Answering questions, the presenter said that the illustrations were done by various artists, the language used then to describe the items was 'totally different' to today's and described what jettons were, saying that they were part of 'a medieval pocket calculator'.

5. Oisín Mac Conamhna: He spoke online about the *Great Book of Irish Genealogies*, or *Leabhar na nGenealach*, published in five volumes by De Burca Press in Dublin in 2003-4. He showed a copy to those present, which had been his father's.

It was a genealogical collection, written mainly from 1645 to 1666 by Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh (c.1600-1671), whom he called one of the most important Gaelic scholars who ever lived. Comparing it with the *Annals of the Four Masters*, he said the latter was 'inaccurate'. This work was an incomparable source for Irish genealogical research. He referred to one numismatic reference in it, of one chief who, at around 1407, rejected the use of coinage entirely.

6. Greg Carley: The Chairman spoke about *A Guide Book of United States Coins 2025*, commonly called the *Red Book*, due to its cover. It was, he said, 'fantastic', giving full retail prices of all US coins issued, even those of next year, not minted yet. All the relevant grades, mintages, and denominations were there. It was the 'go to' book for US coins. He pointed out that once people knew you were a coin collector, many think you know about all coins. Collectors have, he said, to be 'experts on everything'. As well as the Red Book for US coins, he similarly recommended, for all the coins issued in Britain, Ireland, and the associated islands, back to Celtic times, the *Coin Yearbook 2024*, produced annually by Token Publishing, also producers of the magazine *Coin News*.

Alan Keogh closed the presentations and handed back the proceedings to the Chairman, who thanked him and the next four other presenters, saying that they put what he presented 'in the shade'. He repeated that the Programme for 2024-2025 would soon be appearing.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.51 p.m.; and the discussions continued in Doheny and Nesbitt's with refreshments



Ordinary Meeting of the Numismatic Society of Ireland Show and Tell
Friday, 20th September 2024 The meeting began at 8.05 p.m.

The Chairman, Greg Carley, welcomed all present. He spoke about the recent deaths of members Phil Timmins, praising his great work on gunmoney, and John O'Toole, a 'great character, who will be certainly missed'.

He handed proceedings over to the Secretary, Murray Smith, who welcomed, as his guests, Induhadar (Indu) Havaladar, member of the Katamatka Numismatic Society, Bangalore, India, and his flatmate, Siddhortha KS.

He also spoke about the visit he and other members made to the Royal College of Physicians in Kildare Street on Monday, 19th August, and welcomed recent members, including John Crook, present online at his first meeting. He then handed proceedings back to the Chairman.

The Chairman then began the main business of the meeting: Show and Tell. He handed proceedings over to Committee member Aidan Keady, who took the chair for the presentations. The following four people spoke, three in person, and one online:

1. Murray Smith: The Secretary spoke on the 'French Resistance Medal with Rosette', which he bought at an MSOI fair in Monkstown on Saturday, 3rd February, showing it and illustrating that medal's story with slides. It was established by the French Committee of National Liberation, in the UK during WWII, by a decree of General Charles de Gaulle, on 9th February 1943 'to recognize the remarkable acts of faith and courage' that 'contributed to the resistance of the French peoples against the enemy and against its occupiers since 18 June 1940'. He pointed out that of the nearly 65, 000 medals awarded, 25, 701 were awarded posthumously. Of the awardees, while some were well known, two, a boy and a girl, were awarded it in 1947 when both were 13 years of age.

2. Alan Keogh: The Committee member showed and illustrated with slides a Ploughman £5 banknote, issued in 1939 by the National Bank of Ireland, which he got from John Weldon Auctioneers, at the lowest reserve amount. He spoke about the reverse, which showed St. Patrick's Bridge, Cork, with brown marks around the edge, which he found out were glue marks, of old-fashioned paper glue, used for holding it into a picture frame. Calling this a double edge sword, while this glue preserved the banknote, he said he would like to find out if it was possible to remove it professionally.

3. Aidan Keady: The Committee member showed four papal medals, with photos of the first three, also saying that he recently bought 12 more some months ago. The four medals were: 1.) 1873: Pius IX on the obverse; Basilica of St. Lawrence Outside the Walls on the reverse. He showed photographs he took a few years ago of the interior, pointing out it was damaged in an air raid in 1943, and was repaired but missing some decoration. 2.) 1874: Pius IX on obverse; the Piazza Quirinale on the reverse. He showed how he took a photo there in the summer, from a different angle. 3.) 1874: Pius IX on obverse; Basilica of St. Mary in Trastevere on the reverse. Ignazio Bianchi was the designer, the same as for the first medal. 4.) 1837, with Gregory XVI on the obverse.

4. John Russell: Speaking from New Zealand, he showed slides of a Thessalian League Stater, of the period 196-146 BC, which he bought via CNG Auctions. The head of Zeus was on the obverse, with Athena and her spear and shield on the reverse. While pointing out that such coins were not particularly rare, he said that there was a spelling mistake in the inscription on the reverse, there being one sigma too many, instead of an alpha. His observation was that the die cutter was 'not having a good day'. He emailed CNG asking about the mistake; and Jeffrey Rill, a numismatist employed by them, replied, saying that this mistake on that particular coin had not been noticed by them; but that they had sold another coin from the same die. The coin he bought was therefore a common one, but with an uncommon mistake.

The first three presenters, being present in person, passed around the items they spoke about. Questions were asked at the end of some presentations. David Dunlop offered to speak to Alan Keogh about how to restore the banknote he showed, saying he was a member of the Institute of Conservators-Restorers of Ireland (ICRI). John Rainey suggested that any intervention should be kept to a minimum. Both agreed for the Secretary to pass on their contact details to Alan. There were a few more questions and comments.

John Russell expressed his sympathy to Phil Timmins' family, having used his book 'a lot'. The Chairman spoke about the Society's *Bulletin*, praising the work done on improving it over many years by the Publications Editor, Ronan Fitzpatrick. It had graduated from a plain black and white work to one with an improved masthead, and with full colour photography. The quality of the articles had also improved. After being Editor for many years, he announced, Ronan decided to step down.

Committee member Alan Keogh had, he said, expressed an interest in becoming Acting Editor, until the Society's Annual General Meeting on 15th November. The Chairman emphasised that anyone else could also put their names forward for election to the office at the AGM.

He asked for articles for future editions of the *Bulletin*, asking interested members to email Alan, or Ronan, who would pass them on to Alan.

The Chairman finished with a commercial, from O'Reilly's Auction Rooms where he worked.

He said that 190 Lady Lavery war code banknotes were received by him two months ago. These were Irish banknotes printed by the Royal Mint in 1940-4, and which had printed on each a 'war code': a letter in a circle, each letter meaning a particular date and serial number, designed to check if these notes went missing. Also to be sold were English medieval silver coins. He asked that interested members check O'Reilly's website for further details.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.14 p.m., and the discussions continued in Doheny and Nesbitt's with refreshments.



Coin Fair RDS

Serpentine Hall RDS, Dublin 11am -6pm, Sat Sun 15th 16th Feb 2025

by Alan Keogh



This year's fair took place in the Serpentine Hall of the RDS. The venue was afforded lots of space for dealers and visitors alike. The original venue was going to be the Industries hall, however, as the Serpentine hall was available at short notice a room upgrade was offered to Michael Kelly, the event organiser.

The venue was a little chilly at first on Saturday morning, but the heat was soon activated and the room ambience was then perfect. Plenty of light was provided also and the displays / viewing alike were illuminated very well. Suffice to mention that no caterers were present for this fair, however beverages and food were available in the shop across the road in Ballsbridge. The figures available to me were approximately 250 people through the door every day with brisk trading evident. However, I quote these figures as a conservative estimate.

From the stands point of view, there were approximately 31 dealers present, ranging from philately, militaria, and numismatics alike. The stand holders were predominately coming from Ireland, but a stand holder from Canada was present also. The auctioneers, Noonan's of Mayfair in London made a presence also. The numismatic society of Ireland had a very positive weekend with new members signing up and many renewing their memberships. We sold our stock of library surplus items with one exception. We had a variety of curious visitors with queries regarding what we do, and what our general purpose in numismatics is also. Some visitors also brought along a range of family heirlooms for valuation and general identification. As a society we provided identification to our best accumulative abilities, but our valuation advice was very general indeed. The point being, is that a valuation is more subjective and auction dependent.

The fair closed for me with a very positive experience and a few "bargains" purchased. I look forward to the next fair date which will be Sunday the 27th April.

A MOST INTERESTING INDIAN ENQUIRY

By: Murray Smith

As Secretary of the Numismatic Society of Ireland, my job includes dealing with enquiries from individuals and organisations. The most interesting one I received so far was on behalf of the Karnataka Numismatic Society (KNS), based in Bengaluru (also Bangalore), capital of the Indian state of Karnataka. (thekns.org.)

On 24th January 2024, I received an email from Dr. Giridhara Rao Havaladar, member of the KNS's Executive Committee. He said that their society was going to celebrate its 50th anniversary that year, and was looking for information about its founder, Brian Hannon. Their society was founded in 1974, and Mr. Hannon 'played a pivotal role' in this. Sadly, despite their best efforts, 'we have been unable to gather comprehensive details about him, including his background, contributions to numismatics, and any other relevant information'. He therefore, on that society's behalf, sought our assistance, saying, 'If you have any information about Mr. Brian Hannon, or if you could guide us on where to find such information, it would be immensely helpful'.

I knew nothing about Mr. Hannon, but believed that older Society members might. I therefore asked the Chairman, Greg Carley, and the Publications Editor, Ronan Fitzpatrick, on the same day if they knew anything, forwarding on Dr. Havaladar's email. Ronan replied, also on the same day, that, while he did not know the name, perhaps those with 'longer membership' in the Society and its Northern Branch might know something, giving seven names I should try. I forwarded on Dr. Havaladar's email to those seven, and received replies that this person was not known to them, in terms of the Society or Irish numismatics in general. Member Ian d'Alton suggested that I try online, saying that there were references to him there, including the Indian connection.

I acted on that advice, checked online, and came up with information, from at least two sources, that suggested the Brian Hannon in question was American, not Irish. First, I came across a reference to him in a book: *Dinars and Dirhams: Festschrift in Honor of Michael L. Bates, part of the Ancient Iran Series*, published in 2021, a collection of essays dedicated to Michael L. Bates, Curator Emeritus of Islamic Coins at the American Numismatic Society. One of the essays was entitled 'Jabal al-Fidda: The Silver Mine and the Mint', written by Dr. Lutz Ilisch, a German numismatist and Islamic scholar. He was, until his retirement, head of the Research Centre for Islamic Numismatics Tübingen (FINT), in the Department of Oriental and Islamic Studies at the University of Tübingen, Germany. In this essay, Dr. Ilisch spoke about an incident in his early life, in autumn 1972, 'when the American traveller and collector, Brian Hannon, passing through my home town in his Volkswagen Beetle from one of his excursions to southern and eastern Asia', showed him a number of ancient and early medieval copper coins he bought in Herat. (*Dinars and Dirhams*, p. 152).

Second, Mr. Hannon also wrote and self-published a book in 1992: *Glimpses of History*, an illustrated overview of the history of coins. A couple of pages, including the title page, and the covers could be seen from a copy advertised on eBay. The title page gave a post office box address in Felton, California, USA.

I emailed Dr. Havaladar on 30th January, saying that I understood why he contacted the Society, due to Brian Hannon's name. His first and last names being ordinary Irish ones, it was understandable for Dr. Havaladar to have assumed that he was from Ireland.

I explained that I believed Mr. Hannon was from the USA, not Ireland. Many Irish people emigrated to the USA, I said, and valued their Irish heritage, including when they named their children.

I then gave the information from the two sources previously mentioned, to back up my assertion, and suggested that he, first, contact Dr. Ilisch, to which I gave a link to his contact details found online. While he had retired from the University of Tübingen, I said I was sure they would pass on any enquiry. Second, I suggested he make enquiries to the American Numismatic Society. I finished by hoping that the information I gave was of help, and that he would be able to obtain comprehensive information on Mr. Hannon.

Dr. Havaladar replied the same day, thanking me for the 'prompt and thorough response' to his enquiry. He said that my findings regarding Mr. Hannon's potential American origin 'align with our own research, and we are grateful for the additional details you provided'. He truly appreciated 'your willingness to assist us in this matter' and finished by thanking me for 'your time and expertise'.

On 22nd August, I received an unexpected and pleasant surprise from Dr. Havaladar, an email headed 'Thank You for Your Contribution to Our Souvenir', which had attached an article written by him on Brian Hannon, and the same article in the *Souvenir of the Karnataka Numismatic Society*. He thanked me for the 'insightful information' I had given on Mr. Hannon, which 'added great value to our publication and has helped highlight the significant impact of Mr. Hannon's work'. He finished by saying, 'We truly appreciate your support and the time you took to share this valuable information. It has greatly enhanced the quality and depth of our features'.

I was very interested in the story the article told of Brian Hannon (1938-2014). Born in Bellingham, Washington, USA, his father was involved with the Voice of America radio station in Europe after World War II, which led the family to spend several years in Switzerland. Mr. Hannon attended boarding school in Switzerland during this time, 'which nurtured his appreciation for different cultures and histories', then completed his secondary education in Ireland. He then studied civil engineering, then political science, at third level.

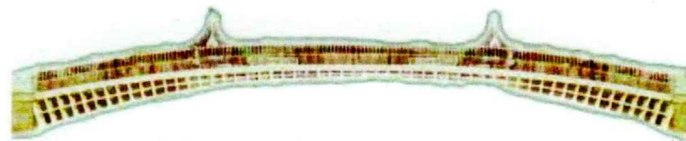
The article, added to by accounts of those who knew him, covered his extensive interest in coins, involving extensive global travel, and his writings on the subject, culminating in *Glimpses of History*, already mentioned. It also spoke about his personal life, which was 'as dynamic as his professional pursuits'. He married Uoormila, an Indian woman from Gujerat, and they had a son, Milan.

On 6th August 1974, he and 17 others founded the Bangalore Numismatic Society (now the KNS), of which he was the founding president, his founding role being called pivotal. He and Uoormila were then in Bangalore, due to the health concerns of the latter, they moving there to

seek somewhere cooler due to the intense Indian summer. Dr. Havaldar ended the article by saying the KNS, in remembering Brian Hannon, 'celebrate a life well-lived and a legacy that continues to inspire'.

I was delighted to read the article, and all the information Dr. Havaldar was able to obtain about him. It was clear that Brian Hannon was a most remarkable man, whom the KNS were very fortunate to have, both as a founder and as a first president. While finding out about his upbringing in Switzerland was interesting, due to his father's work, I was particularly struck that he married and had a son with a woman from Gujarat. I can see that this connection with India, along with his great abilities in numismatics, helped people accept him as the founder and the first president of the KNS.

I wrote this article in answer to a question I asked myself: What was the most interesting enquiry I received so far, as Secretary of the Irish Numismatic Society? I answered that it was the above. I and others were intrigued to receive an enquiry from a fellow numismatic society in India, about their founder and first president, whom they first thought was Irish. I was glad to assist them in finding out more about Brian Hannon, a most remarkable man, whom I found was American, although of Irish background and with an interesting Indian connection.



DUBLIN COIN AUCTIONS

Banknotes : Coins : Medals : Tokens

Mike Kelly

5-7 Upper O'Connell Street, 2nd Floor, Dublin 1
(Courtesy of Collectibles Corner) 11:30AM to 4:30PM



Book Review British Numismatic Journal 2024.
Volume 94. Edited by Martin Allen
By: Garry Byrne

Book Review British Numismatic Journal 2024. Volume 94. Edited by Martin Allen

The BNJ is the annual publication of the British Numismatic Society. This volume is in the NSI library, together with previous ones, dating back to the 1960s. All BNJs from the first series in 1903/04 to 2021 (91) are available online at www.britnumsoc.org. Previous BNJs were reviewed in NSI bulletins, 93/79, 92/76, 91/74 and 90/72.



Oisín MacConamhna again features, with a major paper, *The Limerick Mint 1463-c.1476: A Corpus and Die Study*. It should be read in conjunction with his paper in BNJ 93 on the groats of the Cork mint. A major source of information comes from the museum collections in London, Dublin and Belfast, with singletons from PAS, sales catalogues and private collectors, including some NSI members. The paper is copiously illustrated and diagrams are provided of die links. A full description is given of each coin in the corpus.

An aspect not taken into account sufficiently with Edward IV's Irish coinage is the use of his Irish (*DOMINUS HYBERNIE*) and English & French titles (*REX ANGLIE FRANCIE*), the latter is not compliant with the legislation, but had long usage in Limerick. This forms an important part of Oisín's paper and with other markers such as the form of the letter R on the groats, rosettes and saltires by the neck, new coins can readily be assigned to those in the corpus, even if some features are obscured or absent. For the early issues, he has identified just four coins, a Titled Crown penny and a groat and two pennies of the First Cross & Pellets coinage. The latter three have very crude portraits, with no L on the breast, which is a feature of later issues. One groat with large roses by neck is recorded, it shares its portrait with that of a Cork groat in the BM and one of Henry VI found recently in South Wales (see Bulletin 81, pages 18-19).

For the later issues, the dies are generally well and literately made, with few spelling errors. Twenty rosettes by neck, Irish titles were identified, from eight obverse and fourteen reverse dies. Nineteen saltires or crosses by neck with English & French titles were identified, from four obverse and six reverse dies. Twenty three rosettes by neck, English & French titles were identified, from seven obverse and thirteen reverse dies. Sixteen halfgroats were identified, all with rosettes by neck. Seven obverse and six reverse dies were identified, three had Irish titles, nine English & French, the rest were unclear, but probably included one of each. Twenty four pennies, with cinquefoils, rosettes or crosses by neck were identified, with eleven obverse and thirteen reverse dies used. Again Irish and English & French titles were in use, where such could be determined.

Oisín proposes that the mint restarted on or after 1473, with equipment and personnel being transferred from Cork, after the moneyers in the latter mint were condemned. The L on breast may have been used to mark the new place of usage and remained as a feature of the mint thereafter. He further sees a link between all Munster mints, with similarities noted with the Waterford portrait. There may well have been a single hand at work in all three mints, with John Fanning seen as the most likely candidate. All in all, a masterful study which adds further to our understanding of the coinage of the period.

Elsewhere, Irish coins get a look in in three mediaeval hoards, with one Irish among 23 Henry III pennies found in Wales, an Edward I Dublin penny among 26 found in Herefordshire and one Dublin and one Waterford penny among 156 coins found in North Yorkshire. A table of PAS finds in 2023 has a total of over 8,000 finds, but unfortunately, as before, Irish coins are included with English coins in the five periods covered from 1180 to 1820. No. 124 is an Edward IV Dublin halfpenny 'anonymous crown', found on Anglesey the first to be recorded on PAS. See bulletin 77, p.31, PAS have since updated record to amend it from penny. No. 128 is a posthumous threepence of Henry VIII found near Leeds, with a note that twelve of this issue are on PAS, six threepences and six sixpences, (see Bulletin 78, page 27).

There is the usual range of other articles, including one on the use of die numbers, which will be familiar to collectors of Victorian sovereigns to the sixpences. Apparently it was used to trace defective coins to individual workmen, rather than as a means of assessing how long a die lasts, as per the traditional view. The President's Review of the year 2023 notes the award of three Jeffrey North Medals for Service to British Numismatics, including one to John Rainey, well done John.



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Gary Oddie on RIP 5 February 2025

By Garry Byrne



The death took place of Gary Oddie on 5 February 2025, not long after his 60th birthday on 25th January. He was diagnosed with cancer shortly after he retired, aged 55. He is well known to numismatists for his services to the BNS, with 168 online blogs and posts. He was awarded the BNS Jeffrey North Medal for exceptional services to British numismatics in October 2024, at which event the first photograph was taken, the second is from his service memorial card. The BNS launched 'Contributors to British Numismatics' on their website in January 2022. The first 800+ entries were created by Gary, with the help of many other contributors. It will continue to be added to in future with the help of readers.

The primary aim is to provide an image and where possible, brief details of individuals, many now deceased, who have made a contribution to British numismatics. No doubt Gary will now be suitably honoured. He was working on his third book, on the Boy Bishop coins, when he died. The NSI published his paper on the Knockmahon Copper Mines Co Waterford in the Occasional Papers 2021. On a happy note, last year he finally managed to get a decent pine tree shilling for his very advanced shilling collection which he felt was the crowning achievement of his many years of collecting that area. RIP Gary.



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Favourites from the MEDAL CABINET



ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY Spring Cattle Show medal

The Royal Dublin Society was founded in 1731 and commenced awarding medals in 1761 (1763?). Went (1973) notes that in the same year it was ordered that *'for the future the reverse of all the medals given by this Society shall be a plain surface on which the name of the person, date and occasion of giving the medal shall be engraved at the expense of this Society'*. So, RDS medals all have provenance. Medals are awarded in gold, silver and bronze and Went lists 44 different Society medal designs.



IRELAND, ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY: Spring Cattle Show Silver medal, 1885

Obverse: Armorial shield of the Royal Dublin Society hatched or and azure, crown above, supporters either side, ribboned motto NOSTRI PLENA LABORIS.

Reverse: Legend ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY SPRING CATTLE SHOW, open wreath of oak leaves with acorns and olive leaves with olives, ribboned at stems. Engraved Martin Mahony / & Bros / BEST / Irish Tweed Frieze / & Broad Cloth / Class 8 No 5 / 1885.

Diameter: 54mm; Metal: Silver; Signed: J Woodhouse A.R.H.A.

Went, Arthur E.J. (1973) *The Medals of the Royal Dublin Society*, reprinted from the *Scientific Proceedings of the Royal Dublin Society*, Series B, Vol 3, No. 13, The Royal Dublin Society, Ball's Bridge, Dublin.

Auctions and Sales Round-up

Purcell's Auction 19 March 2025

of Irish Coins and Tokens

Garry Byrne

This auction of 676 lots was billed as an Exceptional Single Owner Sale of Irish Hammered Coins and the Most Incredible Collection of Irish Tokens Ever Offered for Sale at Auction.

Unfortunately for the vendor and auctioneers it was anything but. Nevertheless, some very poor pieces did command extraordinary high prices, though very many were unsold. Grading was also suspect in many cases, some photographed the wrong way up and listings were not always chronological. The buyer's premium was 25% room and telephone, 28.69% online, inc. VAT.



Probably the only rare coins on offer were a John halfpenny* of Walter of Kilkenny €460, and a farthing*, Willem of Dublin, €500, condition given as VF and F-VF respectively. A cut Henry III halfpenny €220 and cut farthings, €60, €65 and €90, pennies €120-€240. Five Edward I farthings €70-€240, eleven pennies, all Dublin Types 1b or IV, €95-€170 and nine halfpennies €40-€180. Henry VIII harp groats, mainly Second Issue, €300, €400 and €460, the latter dark and somewhat misshapen, a Sixth Issue groat, clear WS, €240. Five portrait Edward VI sixpences, all Type IV, €240-€320*, with another unsold.



A Philip & Mary 1555 shilling, very weak in centre, but well-rounded and clear legends, €400 and a wretched 1555 groat 'Fine' €420, 1556 creased, €10, and 1558 €65, both very poor. A weak First Issue Elizabeth I shilling €280 and a wretched groat 'gVF for issue' €150, a 1601-02 shilling €240, sixpences €95 and €190 and a poor threepence VF' €190, four pennies €70-€190. James I shillings €110, €140 and €180*, sixpences €110 twice and €160. Limerick halfpennies 1691 €200 and €500. Two Voce Populi halfpennies sold for €360 each, but four others failed to sell, as did a

battered and bruised farthing, estimate €300-€400. A large St. Patrick's halfpenny, about fair €380.



Tea tokens of Kilkenny made very low €25 and €35, Connel €30, all 1879 and Dublin €20. Very worn Victorian pennies with Irish countermarks €10 twice and €12. A John Hipwell five shillings token* of Maryboro(ugh), noted as not seen by Barry Woodside, €300. Two tavern tokens, Rice not mentioned, €95 (R.213) and €100 (R.393)*. Thread advertising tokens, Whitestone of Dublin were sold for €60, €170 and €340, the last two noted as unrecorded. Ironically, examples of all three were sold with two others at Noonans sale of Woodside's collection on 3 March 2022, Lot 395, which made a mere €35. Forgeries of Bank of Ireland tokens €65, six shillings 1804 and €45 and €55, thirty pence 1808.



Very common Cork 1659 tokens €25, €40, €170* and w/ A Henr, Day, Killbegn, Co. Offaly token* €300, Kinsale 1677, €170 and Ed. Wight, Limeick €90, three Lots of Mic Wilson failed to sell. Six 1820 Canadian-Irish tokens were on offer, three made €45 each, the others failed to sell. All Lots from 160 to the end, 676, were those dreary late 18th century copper tokens, generally halfpennies with a bishop or Camac with monogram and seated Hibernia. The vast majority failed to sell and those that did, were usually in the range €20-€50.



A Munster token*, PCGS graded MS64, 'possibly unique' est. €1,500-€2,500, was unsold, as was another Munster token, ex PCGS slabbed, MS66, 'Noted as their finest graded' est. €1,500-€2,000. A tarnished proof 1789 Bishop's token* €240

Stack's Bowers & Ponterio
17-20 & 20-23 January 2025 NYINC
By: Garry Byrne

Stack's Bowers & Ponterio Auctions NYINC 2025, 17-20 & 20-23 January

As often in January, US auction houses lead the way in presenting top quality Irish rarities for sale and this year is no exception. Among these was Stack's Bowers with two auctions. On offer at the first auction was a Phase III Hiberno-Norse penny*, and a John de Courcy farthing* 0.28g, which sold for \$1,100 each. Coins were PCGS graded, bar the latter, being too delicate.



Two Mary I 1553 shillings sold for \$1,200 and \$1,800*, Lord Justices crown 29.83g \$4,500, halfcrown* \$2,200, weight 11.48g, (it has been noted that a group of these are around 11.5g, with the suggestion that this was deliberate and that they are not clipped) and shilling \$3,400.



An Ormonde crown \$1,600, Blacksmith's halfcrown*, near full weight 14.59g, very clear i.m. cross obv and harp rev \$3,400, Rebel Money crown* \$7,000, unfair rating PCGS VG-8, slightly above expected weight, 25.7g and very crude, even for issue, ex Bridgewater House, 1972.



Cork 1647 shilling*, 4.68g, \$7,000 and sixpence*, 2.35g, \$1,800.



Ormonde's 1649 Coinage, issued after the death of Charles I, crown* PCGS F-12, 27.52g, also ex Bridgewater House, 1972, \$3,900. The following are silver, with PCGS grading: halfpenny 1681, PROOF-53 \$2,600, Feb. 1689 sixpence, PROOF-35 \$4,400, 1690: shillings, April, PROOF-20, \$2,600 and May, PROOF-61, \$2,700 crown, PROOF-53 \$16,000*, halfpenny, PROOF-62 \$3,200. Gilt-silver halfpenny 1696, 'Genuine--Scratch, VF Details' \$800. Copper halfpenny 1737, MS-65 Brown \$1,100 and 1776 MS-63 Brown \$2,800. silver proof 1804 Bank token u/s and 1937 shilling \$950.



At the second auction a Phase III Hiberno-Norse penny sold for \$1,200, Ormonde, subdued prices as usual, crowns \$1,100* and \$480*, halfcrowns \$950 and \$750, shilling on large flan and sixpence \$340 each, groats \$440 and \$320 twice, threepence on large flan \$400 and \$240, halfgroat \$600. May 1690 halfcrown, with much lustre, \$300 and shilling \$180.



Proof set 1928 \$440, halfcrowns 1930 \$440 and 1937 \$120, two florins 1930 & 1959 \$200.



Coin cradle

The Return to Analog: Coin Screening in the Digital Age

By Rory Roberts

In an era dominated by digital solutions and constant data collection, the Coin Cradle takes a refreshingly traditional approach to a modern problem. While counterfeiting technology has grown increasingly sophisticated, this Irish innovation relies on classical physics principles and analog mechanics to provide reliable coin screening, offering the privacy that coin collectors value.



The Counterfeiting Challenge

Traditional authentication methods—weight measurement, dimensional analysis, and specific gravity testing—have served the numismatic community well for generations. However, the landscape of counterfeiting has undergone a disturbing transformation. Modern counterfeiters, particularly operating through Chinese manufacturing facilities, are now producing sophisticated

fakes that are readily available on mainstream e-commerce platforms like Alibaba.

These counterfeits represent a quantum leap in sophistication. Featuring tungsten cores with gold plating up to 60 microns thick, they perfectly replicate the weight, dimensions, and visual appearance of genuine coins. The range of counterfeited pieces is particularly alarming, including highly sought-after coins such as:

- American Gold Eagles
- American Gold Buffalos
- Libertas Series

- Krugerrands
- Other popular sovereign coins



The industrial scale of these operations is noteworthy. Modern facilities employ sophisticated quality control processes, dedicated research and development teams, and maintain extensive international shipping networks throughout Western Europe, Eastern Asia, and beyond. While these companies present themselves as legitimate manufacturers of "collectible replicas," the sophisticated nature of their products poses significant challenges for coin authentication. The products' high quality and precise specifications make traditional authentication methods increasingly unreliable.

This reality has made electromagnetic conductivity testing not just useful but absolutely necessary for reliable authentication. However, the challenge has been finding a solution that provides this capability while maintaining the privacy and independence that coin collectors value.

A Return to Fundamentals

Invented by a hobbyist with a physics background, the Coin Cradle emerged from a practical

need. After discovering that existing authentication methods were prohibitively expensive, the inventor began developing a more accessible solution. Following successful prototyping and backing by enterprise Ireland, collaboration was established with Feelflux, a Hungarian company that had been operating in the scientific toy market for over a decade.

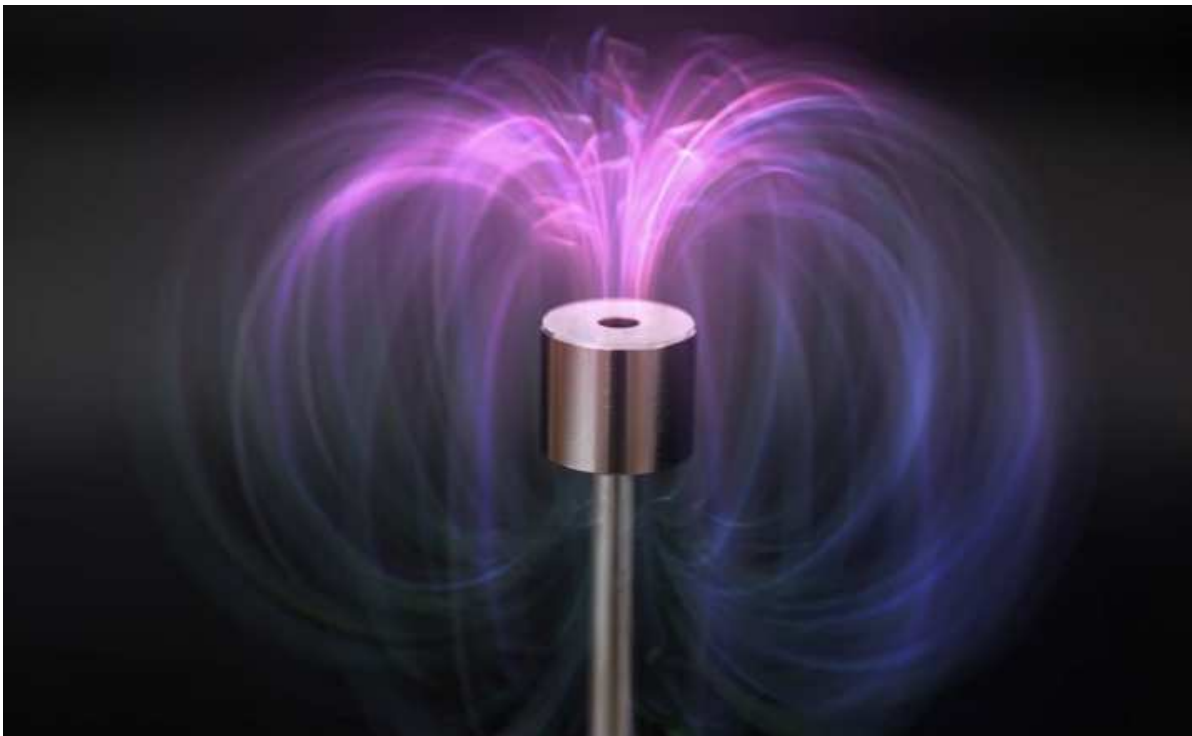
The timing of this article coincides with an exciting milestone for the project. In early 2025, the Coin Cradle is finally entering the market, with its first long-awaited sales to US customers being

processed. What sets this device apart is its purely mechanical approach to eddy current screening. This analog approach not only provides reliability but also ensures complete privacy, with no digital footprint to track or monitor.

Pure Physics, Pure Privacy

The system draws inspiration from industrial eddy current testing principles—a method widely used in aerospace engineering—while maintaining absolute privacy through its analog design.

At its core, the system employs a pendulum equipped with a rare-earth magnet.



When this pendulum swings over a coin, it generates eddy currents within the metal. These electric currents create distinctive electromagnetic signatures that vary depending on the metal's composition. The larger and more conductive the coin, the more damped the motion of the pendulum. The motion of the pendulum is captured by the arc carved out on the pendulum dial. This elegant mechanical solution represents a return to fundamentals in an age where complex digital solutions often dominate.

Technical Specifications and Operation

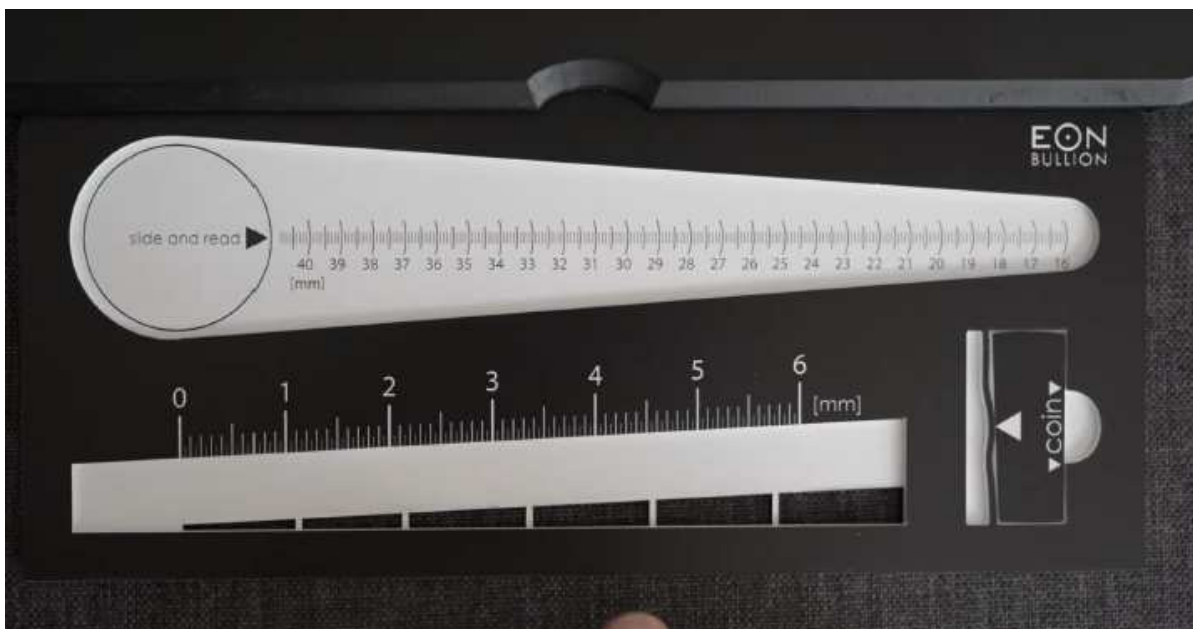
The system provides practical screening capabilities that are particularly effective at identifying tungsten-core and other modern counterfeits. When testing a one-ounce silver coin with a 9mm gap between the coin platform and pendulum, the device typically produces readings around 35 degrees, while pure one-ounce gold coins (99.99%) generally yield readings around 120 degrees under similar conditions.



While readings can vary due to factors such as coin temperature and natural variations in conductivity—a characteristic common to all eddy current testing devices—these variations fall within an expected margin detailed in the device guidelines. What's crucial for screening purposes is that tungsten-core and other counterfeits produce dramatically different readings from genuine coins, showing variations in excess of 200% from expected values.

The Coin Cradle includes several complementary features:

- A precision-engineered coin slider for accurate dimensional measurements



- An integrated mini scale for weight verification
- Comprehensive printed guidelines and reference materials

- Optional access to an anonymous online database for comparing readings

Each component has been carefully designed to offer complete independence from external systems or power sources. This approach not only provides reliability but also guarantees that your screening activities remain entirely private and under your control.

Community Resources with Privacy in Mind

While the Coin Cradle functions completely independently as an analog device, collectors who wish to benefit from community knowledge have the option to participate in a secure, anonymous platform at onetroyounce.com. Each device carries a unique serial number that can be used to access this platform, where collectors can voluntarily share and compare readings without revealing personal information or collection details.



This collaborative approach allows users to compare readings across a wide variety of coins, both precious and non-precious metals, as long as they are non-ferromagnetic. Users can build up a comprehensive database of signature readings based on each coin's unique compositional properties, with rare coins often providing distinctive patterns. This growing database proves particularly valuable in identifying new counterfeiting techniques as they emerge, while maintaining the privacy standards that collectors expect. Participation in data sharing is entirely optional, and the device's core functions remain completely independent of any online connectivity.

The platform has been designed with privacy as a core principle:

- No personal information required just the device number, and associated password.
- Anonymous sharing of readings only tied to the device number.

This approach ensures that collectors can benefit from community knowledge while maintaining

absolute discretion about their collection and screening activities.

Cost-Effective Screening

In today's market, professional coin authentication equipment represents a significant

investment. High-end X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analyzers and specialized testing devices typically range from €8,000 to over €30,000, putting them out of reach for many collectors and smaller dealers. These sophisticated instruments require specialized training for safe operation and accurate testing, along with regular maintenance and calibration. While powerful analytical tools, their complexity and cost create barriers for many potential users in the numismatic community.

The Coin Cradle offers a pragmatic alternative at €600 (plus VAT). This price point makes screening accessible to a broader segment of the numismatic community.



Looking Forward

As we move through 2025, the numismatic community faces both challenges and opportunities. While digital technologies continue to evolve, there's something reassuring about the Coin Cradle's analog approach to screening. It demonstrates that sometimes the most effective solutions don't require complex electronics or digital interfaces, but rather a return to fundamental principles.

This purely mechanical approach, free from digital complications, aligns perfectly with the values

of precious metal collectors who appreciate both traditional methods and privacy. The Coin Cradle proves that advanced screening doesn't have to mean sacrificing the discrete, private nature of physical precious metal collecting.

For more information about the Coin Cradle system, visit onetroyounce.com.

*A thank you from Jonathan Callaway
Emil Szauer Memorial Lecture: An Irish Banking Disaster: The
Story of the Agricultural & Commercial Bank of Ireland.*

A recent message received from Jonathan Callaway,

“I just wanted to thank you and your colleagues for the wonderful reception I received 21st feb 2025. It was delight to meet you all and enjoy an excellent meal with you.

I was struck during the meal at the amount of accumulated knowledge you all have on so many subjects. Numismatics truly is a broad church and I think it’s incumbent on us all to pass on what we know to future generations. Your occasional Papers certainly contributes to that.

I hope very much to return to Dublin at some future point - not least if you arrange another tour of the Bank of Ireland with the inimitable John McGrath.

Best wishes and many thanks again
Jonathan”



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Letters & eMails

The **NSI** are holding BANS in April 2026 in Dublin. This will also mark the 20th anniversary of the Dublin 2006 BANS which ran very successfully using the space within the National Museum of Ireland.

The 2026 event will take place at the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire. We look forward to arranging a series of topical talks, some already have been organised. A trip on the Saturday within the environs of Dublin or perhaps further afield is on the cards also. The society is busy seeking sponsorship and assistance from local associations.

Alan Keogh

Lost Nazi fortune? The \$100 million gold coin trove that survived WWII is now up for auction.

*The story of the **Traveller Collection** is as astonishing as the coins themselves. Dating from ancient times to the modern era, the collection comprises 15,000 rare coins sourced from more than 100 territories worldwide. But it's most remarkable feature? The bulk of these*

coins spent over 50 years buried underground. The original collector, whose identity remains undisclosed, began amassing coins in the aftermath of the Wall Street crash of 1929. Initially drawn to gold as a hedge against economic uncertainty, he quickly developed an appreciation for the artistry, rarity & historical significance of numismatics. By the late 1930's he and his wife had travelled extensively across Europe and the Americas, acquiring coins & meticulously documenting their origins. However, with Hitler's rise & the looming threat of Nazi invasion, the collector made a fateful decision. He packed his prized acquisitions into cigar boxes, sealed them in aluminum containers and buried them deep underground. Only he and his wife knew the location. The collector died very soon afterwards. His hidden fortune remained untouched for 50 years, it's existence known only to his wife. This article is quoted from the Economic Times (India) March 28th 2025.

From the Archives 1974 Boycott on Irish Currency by Michael Kenny

BOYCOTT ON IRISH CURRENCY. The Ulster Workers' Council announced on October 28, 1974, that it would be putting up posters in shops throughout Northern Ireland telling customers that Irish money would not be accepted.

The U.W.C.'s press officer, Jim Smyth, said that as well as the poster campaign, they would be urging workers not to accept Irish currency in their pay packets and that sanctions on Irish goods would be considered later. He went on: "At a meeting at the week-end it was decided that we were so totally opposed to a united Ireland and all it stood for, that it was ridiculous that Eire currency could be used alongside British currency. Their currency is not legal tender in England, Wales or Scotland and as we are a part of the U.K. it should not be considered here. The currency boycott will serve as a reminder to the South that we do not want anything to do with them."

An Irish bank spokesman said that the total value of Irish currency in circulation was just over £225 m., including £210 m. in notes, with possibly as little as 2% in circulation in the North.

One of the prime supporters of the move to boycott Irish currency in Northern Ireland is the Rev. Ian Paisley and an article in his *Protestant Telegraph* of early November 1974, under the heading of "Boycott I.R.A. Money", says that the Irish national character is best summed up in the emblem of a pig.

The article said that national character is reflected in the coins of the Republic and goes on: "The old halfcrown and sixpence showed a horse and a greyhound –

symbols of gambling. The florin sports a fish – symbolising the abstinence from meat on certain days. The old penny had a cockerel – reminding the Papists how their 'first Pope' denied the Lord. The old halfpenny carried the national emblem – a pig – which sums up, more than any other symbol, the national character of prolific breeding, doubtful cleanliness and distinctive physical features. Depicted on the 5p piece is an animal – could it possibly be a Papal bull? Boycott Irish Republican animal money."

The Rev. Paisley has a church in Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland. We wonder what arrangements he has made to deal with his collection there?

*The Annual Society Display Competition,
January 2025 Meeting, both in Ely House and online.*

January's traditional cheese and wine married with the society's display competition was held at both in Ely House and online. Six display entries were sent in.

The six entrants, from A to F were:

- A - Alan Dunlop
- B - Chris Budesá
- C - Derek Kerins
- D - Ian d'Alton
- E - John Russell
- F - Michael Kenny

The competition's winner was:

E - John Russell with his display on ***"Italian Medieval Trade Coins"***

John was awarded the Silver Medal which was deemed quite an achievement for someone who joined from New Zealand less than a year ago.

The runner up was:

D - Ian d'Alton with his display on ***"Medals of the Exposition Internationale des Arts et Techniques dans la Vie moderne, Paris, 25 May to 25 November 1937"***

Ian was awarded the Bronze Medal for his efforts which was a close-run race.



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Results for the NSI essay competition 2025

Another year and the results for the society essay competition is in.

The committee has endorsed the careful and timely consideration by Oisín Mac Conamhna on five entries. Oisín gave a very thorough analysis of the entries, for which he should be congratulated.

The competition's winner was:


John Naylor with his essay on **"Sworn Brokers Medals of the Royal Exchange"**

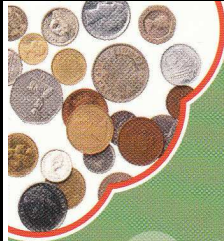
John scored 20 out of 20 and is awarded the Silver Medal.

The runner up was:

Rob Page with his essay on **"A Fresh Look at Phase II Hiberno-Scandinavian Pennies"**

Rob scored 15 out of 20 and is awarded the Bronze Medal.





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