American Numismatic Society, Summer Graduate Seminar

MEDIEVAL NUMISMATIC REFERENCES

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Literature covering the numismatics of the European Middle Ages is vast and disparate. Numerous useful bibliographical sources exist, but finding relevant citations can be challenging. The attached selections provide merely an introduction and partial overview to materials in several areas, along with some observations. They are by no means exhaustive. Frequently encountered acronyms are listed as they occur in alphabetical sequence in place of the authors’ names. Emphasis has been laid on the more general works rather than the extensive specialized literature in periodical sources.

Early Medieval and General

(BMC) Wroth, Warwick. 1911. Catalogue of the coins of the Vandals, Ostrogoths and Lombards, and of the empires of Thessalonica, Nicaea and Trebizond in the British Museum. London: the Trustees of the British Museum. Very important, a basic collection, although much new information has been learned during the past 100 years.

Chautard, Jules Marie Augustin. 1871. Imitations des monnaies au type esterlin frappés en Europe pendant le XIIIe et le XIVe siècle. Nancy: Impression de l'Académie de Stanislas. This work is “ancient” but has not been superceded.


Grierson, P. 1991. Coins of Medieval Europe. London. These two works (the latter a shorter, English version of the former) constitute an excellent introduction. Grierson was the international “grand master” of Medieval numismatics.

Ilisch, Peter. 1997. Les monnaies de l'empire, celles de basse-lotharingie incluses et l’économie monétaire en Europe aux 10e et 11e siècles. Revue Belge de Numismatique et de Sigillographie, vol. 143, p. [125]-135. Many important articles are to be found in the Revue Belge. Ilisch has edited the publication of numismatic literature for the INC.

The sextennial surveys are prepared, topic by topic, by specialist experts on the materials for each region.


Metlich, Michael A. 2004. The coinage of Ostrogothic Italy, and a die study of Theodahad folles by E.A. Arslan and M.A. Metlich. London: Spink and Son. More or less the last work on the coinage of the Ostrogoths.


France
Armstrong, Simon. 1998. Carolingian coin hoards and the impact of the Viking raids in


Ciani, Luigi. 1926. *Les monnaies royales françaises de Hugues Capet à Louis XVI, avec indication de leur valeur actuelle*. Paris: the author. Originally a dealer’s list, this work became a popular guidebook due to its extensive excellent engraved illustrations and reflection of relative values.


(RN) *Revue numismatique*. Paris. A principal venue for publication in the field, containing many important articles.

**Italy**


(MEC) Grierson, Philip, and Lucia Travaini. 1998. *Medieval European coinage, Vol. 14, Italy (III), (South Italy, Sicily, Sardinia)*, with a catalogue of the coins in the Fitzwilliam Museum. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press. The leading reference on this area and time period, the later Middle Ages.

(RIN) *Rivista Italiana di Numismatica e Scienze Affini*. Milano. The periodical is of primary importance for the many series of articles it features.


Sambon, Guilio. 1912. *Repertorio generale delle monete conaite in Italia e da Italiani*


**British Isles**

Abramson, Tony. 2006. Sceattas - an illustrated guide: Anglo-Saxon coins and icons. King’s Lynn, Norfolk: Heritage Marketing and Publications, Ltd. In addition to many enlarged photos covering all known varieties, the work includes fine line drawings by D. M. Metcalf. Finds of early Anglo-Saxon series have greatly increased both numbers extant and interest in the field.


British Museum. The only British Museum catalog on a single issue of coinage; a classic, recently reprinted by “books on demand.”


-- [1961]. *Anglo-Saxon coins: studies presented to F. M. Stenton on the occasion of his 80th birthday, 17 May 1960*, R. H. M. Dolley, ed. London: Methuen. Dolley’s vast output of articles covers many areas; this valuable volume contains a number of important studies by others as well.


Now very much dated, this study introduces the methodology of chronological investigation as undertaken by Hawkins and other British numismatic pioneers. As the first work on Medieval coins that I happened to have read, I still have a fondness for it.


Original comprehensive catalog and classification of the Anglo-Saxon “Danegeld” coinages abundantly found in Sweden.


Mossop, H. R. 1970. *The Lincoln mint c. 890-1279*, Veronica Smart, ed.; with an introduction by Michael Dolley and an analytical note by C. S. S. Lyon. Newcastle upon Tyne: Corbitt & Hunter. Although Mossop died before its completion, this was an important, comprehensive pioneering work on the output of a single mint, a practice that has come more into vogue since.


Archaeological Trust by the Council for British Archaeology. Important publication of the coins, dies and die trials recovered from Yarvik’s Coppergate.

Pirie, Elizabeth J. E. 1996. *Coins of the Kingdom of Northumbria, c.700-867*, in *Yorkshire collections: the Yorkshire Museum, York; the University of Leeds; the City Museum, Leeds*. Llanfyllin, Powys (Wales): Galata Print Ltd., 1996. Ms. Pirie was the acknowledged expert on the Northumbrian “stycas” and associated coinages. Her other publications in this field are extensive.


Spink. 1892- present. *Numismatic Circular*. The commercial firm’s house publication has been an important venue for many shorter articles.


John Hopkins University, Hillel Kaslove, Emery May Norweb, the Smithsonian Institute and Walter J. Zimmerman). London: the British Academy. It would seem that the ANS collection had been deliberately left small, reportedly so as to avoid competition with British institutions; it has grown substantially since 1982--particularly with the accession of substantial numbers of Northumbrian styccas.


-- Mass, Jeffrey P. 2001. *Sylloge of coins of the British Isles, vol. 56: English short cross coins, 1180-1247: the J. P. Mass collection*. Oxford: published for the British Academy by Oxford University Press and Spink & Son. The *sylloges* are of the utmost importance for study of the British coinages as a whole; only a few are listed here. The latter volume, by Mass, for example, is the most comprehensive catalogue ever published on the English Short Cross coinage illustrating and describing 2,200 specimens from the author's collection.


**Germany**

Arnold, T. 1993. Die Erfurter Hohlpfenigprägung bis 1350. (15 Eligiuspreis 1992, 2 Preis). *Numismatisches Nachrichtenblatt* 42, Heft 2, 36-47. Speyer. This and a number of the following references pertain to the highly important Erfurt hoard, the largest treasure of later Medieval silver coinage so far found in Germany (3,114 items). Most of the Erfurt coins are royal French *gros tournois*, but the German elements aid particularly in dating the deposit.


[Bonhoff, Friedrich]. 1977. Peus, Dr. Busso Peus (Frankfurt) auction catalog, sale 293, 27-8 October. This 253 page, 2158 lot sale, one of the three auctions of the Bonhoff collection, is quite celebrated and frequently cited as a modern general reference in the field. Generally-speaking, commercial catalogs are not included here because they are not typically accessible in most libraries, but they themselves can be excellent sources for further bibliographical research and are sometimes of primary importance.


**Central and Eastern Europe**


Northwestern Europe, Scandinavia and the Baltic


(CNS) 1975--. *Corpus nummorum saeculorum IX-XI qui in Suecia reperti sunt* (Catalogue of coins from the 9th-11th centuries found in Sweden), Brita Malmer and Nils Ludwig Rasmusson, eds. 16 vols. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International. This extensive, ongoing work covers the many caches of Viking-age coins found in Sweden in archaeological contexts, and particularly on Gotby Island.

- Dolley, R. H. M. 1957-8. The Post-Brunanburh Viking coinage of York with some remarks on the Viking coinages which preceded the same. *Nordisk Numismatisk Årsskrift*, p. 13-88. The battle of Brunanburh was a water-shed in Anglo-Saxon history, and following it, the coinage began taken a different course.


Iberia


Miles, George C. 1952. The coinage of the Visigoths of Spain: Leovigild to Achila II. Published in cooperation with the Hispanic Society of America, Hispanic Numismatic Series; monograph no. 2. New York: The American Numismatic Society. Still important, this work was the standard for the Visigothic coinage until recently.


Todesca worked on Medieval Iberian coinage while a student in the ANS Graduate Seminar.


**Outremer**


