

REVIEWS

Coinage and Currency in Roman Britain. By C. H. V. SUTHERLAND, Assistant Keeper of Coins in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. 184 pages, 14 plates.

ROMAN historians tell us little of the three and a half—or must we now say four?—centuries of Roman rule in Britain beyond a brief record of gradual conquest, occasional desperate struggles against invading barbarians, and the final evacuation. It is largely to the achievements of modern archaeology that we owe the three hundred fascinating pages of the section on Roman Britain in the "Oxford History of England". How great our debt is can be partly gauged by the contribution which, as Mr. Sutherland here shows us, numismatics can bring towards an understanding of the social and economic life led by the people of our island during the Roman occupation.

The author's aim (as he tells us in his Preface) is "firstly, to present in a continuous narrative the varying condition of Britain's currency during the Roman occupation and the years following, and, secondly, to give some account of those coins (so numerous in Britain) which were imitated from Roman prototypes". Nine chapters cover as many periods—from the "Pre-Claudian and Claudian" to the "Sub-Roman and Anglo-Saxon", and for each period he gives the coin-evidence with skilful deductions drawn from the numbers, the locality, and the composition of the hoards or site-finds as to the circumstances in which the coins were brought together, used, and lost. The second part of each chapter is devoted to the "copies", which in a province possessing—except at rare periods—no regular mint were bound to be numerous. These present varying problems at various times. One class of them deserves and receives special attention in two of the author's three appendices. The typical coins of the third and fourth centuries, with radiate and diademed obverse busts respectively, were, we know, both widely imitated contemporaneously with their legitimate issues, possibly everywhere, owing to the vast numbers required for payments in a depreciated currency, certainly in Britain, which was under the peculiar disadvantage of not possessing

an imperial mint. That radiate "minimi" should be found side by side with standard coins of the same kind is not in itself surprising, as the government does not seem to have regarded the provision of "small change" as falling within its sphere of duties, but that they should be found also in hoards composed exclusively of "minimi" and occasionally combining with their "radiate" bust a "diadem" reverse proves that these at least are of much later date than their third-century prototypes. Have we here the sub-Roman coinage which links up with the Anglo-Saxon? The author has taken a leading part in elucidating the coinage of the darkest period of our history and his views on this question deserve close attention. The remaining appendix consists of a very useful chronological list of Roman hoards found in Britain, with reference in all cases to authorities. This is clearly a book which every one interested in Roman Britain should possess and, of course, to the field-archaeologist it is indispensable.

J. W. E. P.

Catalogue of Jacobite Medals and Touch-pieces. By FRANCIS J. A. SKEET, F.S.A., Leeds, 1938. Price 5s.

THIS booklet collects all the information with regard to Stuart medals in the *Medallic Illustrations*, together with some additions. The author is a determined legitimist, and will not use the word 'Pretender', but his work does not suffer thereby. For those interested in this period it is a handy book and, although it has no illustrations, is excellently produced. Unfortunately, like all such compilations, it is not as complete as it purports to be. It omits, for instance, the interesting medals struck by 'Henry IX' during the Papal Sede Vacante periods of 1769 and 1774.

Coins of the World. Edited by WAYTE RAYMOND and STUART MOSHER. New York: Wayte Raymond, Inc., 1938. 232 pages, illustrated. \$3.00.

THIS book has been completed by the authors from the manuscript of Mr. Howland Wood, who died just before it went to press. It covers the period from 1900 onwards comprehensively and is well illustrated.

The Medals of the Northumbrian Bag-pipes. By GILBERT ASKEW. Printed for the Northumbrian Pipers' Society, 1938. 12 pages, 2 plates. 1s.

Medals awarded to North American Indian Chiefs 1714-1922 and to Loyal African and other Chiefs in various Territories within the British Empire. By MELVILL ALLAN JAMIESON. London: Spink & Son, 1936. 122 pages.

Transactions of the International Numismatic Congress, 1936. London: Bernard Quaritch, Ltd., 1938. 490 pages, 27 plates.

THE following papers on British numismatics are included:

- "British Tin Coinage of the Iron Age", by Derek Allen.
- "On the Distribution of Sceattas", by Colonel N. Belaïev.
- "The Coinage of the Second Belgic Invasion", by Derek Allen.
- "Some New Light on the Heavy Silver Coinage of Henry IV, 1399-1412", by Christopher Blunt.
- "The Money of the Boy Bishop at Bury St. Edmunds", by J. B. Caldecott.
- "Historical British Coins", by Rev. A. Mallinson.
- "The Coinage of the Channel Islands", by H. E. Stapleton.
- "La Concession du droit de monnaie à Savary de Mauléon par le roi d'Angleterre, duc d'Aquitaine, et les rapports du Poitevin avec le Tournais", by A. Dieudonné.
- "Treasure-trove in Denmark", by G. Galster.
- "'Moneta' in Old English, 'Mót(peningr)' in Old Norwegian Coin-inscriptions", by Hans Holst.
- "Le Prétendu Monnayage d'Édouard III en Brabant", by Prof. V. Tourneur.
- "Monnaies moyenâgeuses frappées avec des coins provenant de différents pays", by Z. Zakrzewski.
- "Modern English Medals", by Colonel M. H. Grant.
- "Minimi, Radiate and Diademed: their place in Roman and post-Roman Currencies", by C. H. V. Sutherland.

One paper calls for particular attention, namely that by Prof. V. Tourneur on "Le Prétendu Monnayage d'Édouard III en Brabant", since in it Prof. Tourneur throws out a challenge to English numismatists. He describes certain half-groats issued by the Duke of Brabant which imitate in style the half-groats of Edward III. He dates the coins in

question to 1338-40 and deduces that English half-groats must consequently have been struck as early as this instead of first appearing in 1351 as is generally thought. The London mint Accounts at this time, up to 1351, give the actual denominations which were struck and the amounts coined into each. From the accounts it is clear that the only denominations before 1351 were pence, halfpence, and farthings. It would appear more likely, therefore, that the date of the Brabant coins will have to be revised, since they clearly copy an English original, rather than that a search for a half-groat struck in London before 1351 will prove successful.

Mynt (Nordisk Kultur, xxix). Stockholm, 1936. Swedish coins by BERGT THORDEMAN; Norwegian coins by HANS HOLST; Danish coins by GEORG GALSTER. Edited by SVEND AAKJER.

THIS is an excellent book and discusses fairly fully the circulation and copying of English coins in Scandinavia. There is also some account of Northumbrian coins.

PERIODICAL LITERATURE

Journal of the British Archaeological Association, 3rd Ser., vol. ii: "The Gun-money of James II", by V. B. Crowther-Beynon.

Transactions of the East Herts. Archaeological Society, vol. x, part 1: "Gold Coin of Henry VIII found at Hertford".

Sussex Notes and Queries, vol. vii, no. 2: "Controversial medals of the Reformation", by S. Spokes.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, vol. lxxi: "Two unpublished Groats of James I", by C. H. Dakers; "An unpublished Scottish Gold Coin", by E. R. Paton; "Two notes on Scottish Coins", by H. J. Dakers.

— vol. lxxii: "Notes on Scottish Coins", by C. H. Dakers. (1) Rex Scottorum pennies of David II; (2) Edinburgh light groats of Robert III; (3) Some James II groats of the third variety of the fleur-de-lis groats; (4) Gilbert Kirkwood's mark on a gold coin of James V.

History of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club, vol. xxix, part 3: "A collection of Northumbrian stycas in the possession of Sir Carnaby Haggerston", by J. Allan.

Berkshire Archaeological Journal, vol. xli, no. 2: "A find of Stuart Coins at Childrey Manor, Berks.", by D. F. Allen.

— vol. xlii, no. 1: "Ancient British Coins found in Berkshire", by W. A. Seaby. A list of ancient British coins found in the county, arranged topographically and illustrated. A supplement will appear shortly with further illustrations.

British Museum Quarterly, vol. xi, no. 3: "Selsey Treasure Trove".

— no. 4: "The Dorchester Hoard".

Numismatist, January 1938: "The Isle of Man and its Triquetra Coins", by A. H. Brooke.

Journal of the South Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, Kent, no. 40, 1937: "Hop tokens of Kent and Sussex", by Rev. R. W. H. Ackworth. A list, not complete but reasonably so, of hop-tokens issued in Kent and Sussex with a short introduction on their use.

Revue Numismatique, 1938: "La circulation des sceattas dans la Gaule mérovingienne", by P. Le Gentilhomme. A full description of all Anglo-Saxon and Frisian sceattas found in France and a tentative chronology of them.

Numismatic Notes and Monographs, no. 30: "The Richborough hoard of 'radiates'", by H. Mattingly and W. P. D. Stebbing. This contains some discussion of the origin of coinage in this country during the dark ages. Messrs. Mattingly and Stebbing show reason to connect the hoard with Hengist and Horsa.

Numismatic Chronicle, 1937: "The Coinage of Henry VI restored: Notes on the London Mint", by Derek Allen.

