

# Contributors to British Numismatics - Introduction

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## Outline

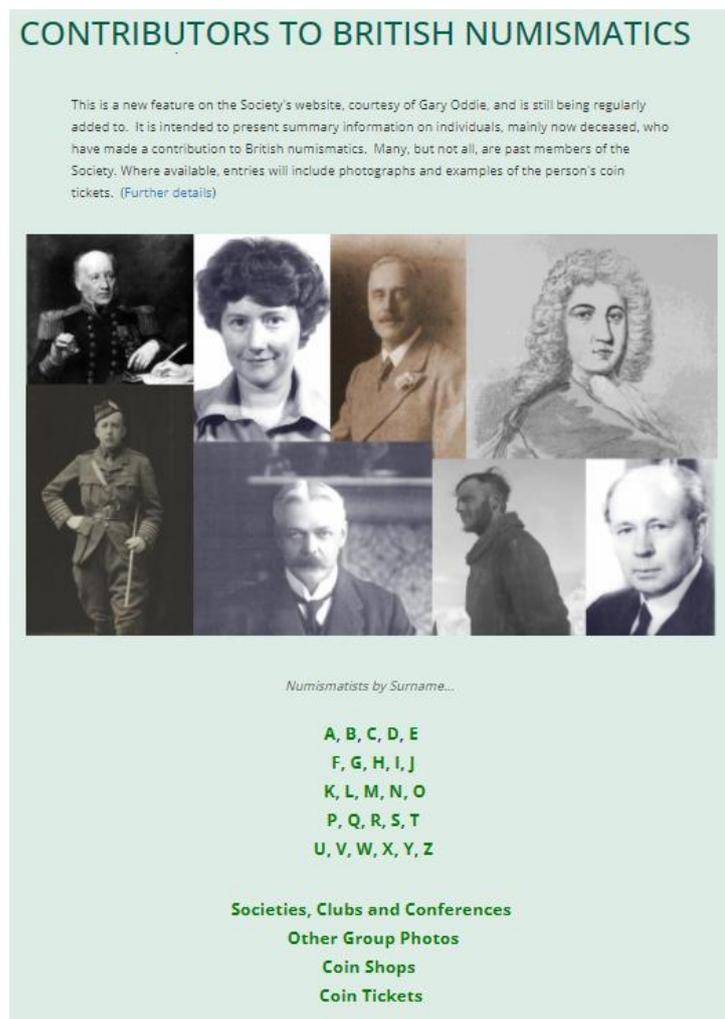
This note will provide a brief description of the archive, the reasons behind setting it up and the sources that have been used already to create the 800+ entries in the archive. A final section describes future plans and also how the archive might evolve with help from readers.

## The Archive

A new section has been created on the front page of the British Numismatic Society – the BNS website - called ‘contributors’. <https://www.britnumsoc.org/>



Clicking the ‘Contributors’ button takes you to the main page of the archive.



Clicking on any of the letters, e.g. C will take you to that section of the archive and a list of ‘names’.



Surname > [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Calahane, D  
 Callaway, J.  
 Campbell, C.T. (1902-83)  
 Campbell, J.F.  
 Camden, W (1551-1623)  
 Cameron, L.  
 Camm, L.  
 Canioni, M  
 Carlyon Britton, P.W.P. (1863-1938)  
 Carlyon Britton, R.C. (1893-1960)  
 Carne, N  
 Carson, R.A.G. (1918-2006)  
 Carter, C.  
 Carter, E.C. (1865-1950)  
 Carthew, R.J. (1863-1943)  
 Cawston, J  
 Cetin, S  
 Challis, C.E. (b.1939)  
 Champ, G  
 Chard, L.  
 Charman, G.W. (b.1946)  
 Cheek, J  
 Child-Villiers, G.F. (1910-98)  
 Christie, J. (1730-1803)  
 Clain-Stefanelli, E.E. (1914-91)  
 Clark, L.C.G (1881-1961)  
 Clark-Thornhill, T.B. (1857-1934)  
 Claydon, B  
 Clayton, P.A.  
 Clermont, A.P. de  
 Coats, T. (1809-83)  
 Cochran-Patrick, R.W. (1842-97)  
 Coffing, C  
 Cokayne, F.S. (1871-1945)  
 Cole, W. (1714-82)  
 Coleman, R  
 Collins, C  
 Colvin, P  
 Combe, T. (1774-1826)

Then clicking on a 'name' will bring up the entry for that person – e.g. Col. Ranulphus John Carthew.

**Carthew, Ranulphus John**



**Col.**



**(1863-1943)**



**Biographical and Other Notes**  
 He was born in 1863 and grew up in the family home at Woodbridge Abbey, Suffolk, and served in the Suffolk Royal Field Reserve Artillery. He married Catherine Agnes Edith Waller at Woodbridge on the 5 October 1892 at St Mary's Woodbridge. By 1909 Carthew had become a magistrate at Woodbridge and was chairman of the Woodbridge Urban District Council. He was living at the Abbey which is now Abbey School. On 6 November 1909, the Marquis of Bristol started the Suffolk branch of the British Red Cross Society. Carthew was its first director. He joined the BNS and RNS in 1905. He died 11 November 1943 was buried in Woodbridge Municipal Cemetery. His collection of about 5,800 seventeenth century tokens (not counting Suffolk) were listed in SCMB in 1946.  
 Contributors to British Numismatics

**Sources and References**  
 HEM Encyclopædia 2 – Numismatic.  
 G. Oddie. Col. Ranulphus John Carthew. *TCSB* forthcoming.  
 Seaby Coin and Medal Bulletin. No 340, March 1946 pp8-16.  
 Thanks to Carole Carthew, his great granddaughter, for the photograph.

01 June 2021



Clicking on ‘Coin Tickets’ will bring up a single document that contains illustrations of coin tickets with known ‘names’.

### Coin Tickets

The following pages contain images of Coin Tickets in alphabetical order where possible of the named person or failing that, the company. For further background information on each ‘name’ please see the main catalogue. If any readers have examples of tickets with known provenances that can replace the b/w or show a different style, please could the images (including details of diameter and name) be sent to: [website.bns@gmail.com](mailto:website.bns@gmail.com) or [contributors.bns@gmail.com](mailto:contributors.bns@gmail.com)

The primary source of images was:

**A**

Abramson

Adams, C

Campbell, Niall Dairmid, 10th Duke of Argyll (1872-1949)

### Main List

R. J. Eaglen, P.D. Mitchell and H.E. Pagan. ‘Coin tickets in the British hammered series’ BNJ vol. 71 (2001), 136-57 + 26 b/w plates

Other contributors are listed at the last page of this document.

The pages will be regularly updated as new images are added. The version number and date at the bottom of each page will track this. See also ‘Recent Additions’ pages for tickets that haven’t yet been added to this main listing.

AMR Coins

Ashby, JM

Carter obv, Ashby rev

Ashley, William Edward (1899-1977)

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This contains about 200 ‘names’ but is expected to grow in the coming months with readers’ help. Many, though not yet all, of the names on the ticket pages have an entry in the ‘Contributors’ catalogue.

At this point it is important to stress that this archive is a work in progress, as such it is far from complete and will evolve over the coming years. The presence or absence of a ‘name’ is merely the result of the searches that have so far been carried out. The names might be well known or quite obscure and their contributions to British numismatics ranging someone briefly passing through the hobby to a monumental lifetime’s work to. The aim has been to create an archive that was large enough at launch to be broadly useful and most of all interesting.

## Motivation and Background

The seeds for this project were sown over a decade ago whilst writing a book on Bedfordshire 17<sup>th</sup>C tokens. The primary author, John Gaunt (1938-2010), had recently passed away and I included a photo and brief biography both kindly provided by his widow Irene. To show how the study of this county had progressed over the past few hundred years, details of other collectors and collections of Bedfordshire 17<sup>th</sup>C tokens were included along with images of Admiral William Henry Smyth (1788-1865) and Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe (1901-1976).

When working on a similar book for Cambridgeshire 17<sup>th</sup>C tokens, the list of past collectors was more thorough and longer and images of the collectors more difficult to find. In particular Col. Ranulphus John Carthew (1863-1943) was a challenge. I had a copy of his book plate and knew what his tickets looked like, but what about the man himself? Modern technology came to the rescue and an internet search produced a photograph of his gravestone and a few hours later I was in touch with his Granddaughter, Carole. Although she knew nothing of his collection, she kindly provided a photograph. This image has subsequently been uploaded onto several genealogical websites and is now easy to find.

Accepted there are the authors of books, articles and papers that are recognized as standard texts; big names, big budget, focused collectors and cataloguers, well-known auction houses with named sales, dealers etc., but this is quite a rarified view of the subject. But what about the rest? There are the dealers, auctioneers, scholars, museum curators, museum donors, not to mention the clubs and societies, collectors, writers, speakers, and more recently facebook pages that have all made and continue to make a contribution to the subject that falls under the title numismatics. To take on the world would be a huge challenge, for example the Newman Numismatic

Portal now lists 4,738 names in its 'people' section, as might be expected mostly US names. Thus the remit of this project was limited to be the same as that of the British Numismatic Society, with a bit of flexibility around the edges. British collectors and writers who were active before the middle of the eighteenth-century are included, though they typically collected coins of the Greeks and Romans. The aim is to be inclusive, so that ideally an image or two of any name in British Numismatics can be easily found.

### **Finding a Home for the Project**

It would be easy to create a webpage or even a facebook page to upload the information as it is created, however these tend to be projects driven by one person and very vulnerable to loss. The webpages of several societies and the lifetime's work of some specialist collectors have been lost when they have passed away without leaving plans for continuity of the work.

An outline proposal of the project was presented to the Council of the British Numismatic Society at the April 2021 meeting. The project was approved along with permission to create a dedicated section on the BNS website to host the results.

There were also several discussions on the limiting of the entries to people that are deceased or deceased by at least 10 years. For the living, there are issues of personal information, security, and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations). The early part of the cataloguing focused on 'names' that had passed away, however, more recently, living entries with just images and names and no other text have been included with permission of Coin News and the British Museum Archive of Numismatic photographs. This will be discussed in more detail later.

Thanks to the efforts of the BNS website officer, Rob Page, the modifications to the website were completed, though the final link was left unconnected so the pages could be previewed as they were uploaded. The work would continue in the background until it was considered large enough to have critical mass and could be released to the public. Several people have looked at the previews over the past few months and provided useful feedback and suggestions, for which many thanks. Also a thankyou to everyone for keeping this project below the radar while it was being developed.

### **The First Push and What to Include?**

The primary aim of the archive is to include images of people who have made a contribution to British Numismatics including photographs, paintings, drawings, medals, sculptures etc. Associated images such as coin tickets, book plates, house, and maybe an auction catalogue cover or gravestone are also included. It is not an encyclopædia of names, a who's who of British Numismatics, as that would be just a repetition and update of the five volumes of the late Harry Manville's Encyclopædia of British Numismatics. The important difference is that this is an archive of images.

A standard one-page template was devised to contain the images, and a deliberately small space for a brief biography, and sources/references for more information. It is hoped that the entries in the archive will prompt further research, and larger publications elsewhere for example in the BNS blog, Coin News, the BNJ etc.

The following is a list of the sources of 'names' appearing in the first phase of the catalogue with a few comments about each.

1. R. J. Eaglen, P.D. Mitchell and H.E. Pagan. 'Coin tickets in the British hammered series' BNJ vol. 71 (2001), 136-57 + 26 b/w plates. The plates were scanned and images cut out and added to the standard template. Biographical details from the BNJ or Manville were added along with images in the public domain of from the BNJ. Thanks to Martin Allen (Editor) and the BNS Council for permission to use images from past BNJs.
2. P. Mitchell, 'Some reminiscences of the coin business I joined [A. H. Baldwin & Sons] and of some members past' BNJ vol. 73 (2003), 197-212, pls. All the portraits were extracted and added to new or existing pages. Filenames were devised to allow version tracking and easy updates.

3. DNW special collections archive. Work through online archive for all sales with obituaries and photos. There are a few printed catalogues which include images and biographies that are not in the special collections archive. Thanks to Peter Preston Morley for permission to use this content.
4. Douglas Saville provided many portraits, including several auctioneers. Many of these had been used in John Spring's *Ancient Coin Auction Catalogues 1880-1980*. 2009.
5. Paul and Bente Withers allowed use of images from their *British Copper Tokens 1811-1820* (Galata Press, 1999).
6. Harold Welch is currently writing a book on 18<sup>th</sup>C token collectors, their publications and libraries. He has kindly added several biographies and bookplates to collectors of that series
7. The British Museum online catalogue includes many images of numismatists including medallions which show portraits. The search term "numismatist" finds many items, but often directly searching a name turns up other images.
8. Coin News, with permission thanks to John Mussell, working backwards from 2021, initially picking out any portraits of deceased 'names' from the articles, editorial and obituaries.

In each case a check was made in the BNJ index (obits etc.) and Harry Manville's encyclopædias:

9. H.E. Manville & T.J. Robertson. *British Numismatic Auction Catalogues 1710-1984*. Encyclopædia of British Numismatics volume I. A.H. Baldwin & Sons Ltd, Spink & Son Ltd, 1986.
10. H.E. Manville. *Numismatic Guide to British & Irish Periodicals 1731-1991*. Encyclopædia of British Numismatics volume II part 1 (Archaeological). A.H. Baldwin & Sons Ltd, Spink & Son Ltd, 1993.
11. H.E. Manville. *Numismatic Guide to British & Irish Periodicals 1836-1995*. Encyclopædia of British Numismatics volume II part 2 (Numismatic). A.H. Baldwin & Sons Ltd, Spink & Son Ltd, 1997.
12. H.E. Manville. *Numismatic Guide to British & Irish Printed Books 1600-2004*. Encyclopædia of British Numismatics volume III. Spink & Son Ltd, 2005.
13. H.E. Manville. *Biographical Dictionary of British and Irish Numismatics*. Encyclopædia of British Numismatics volume IV. Spink & Son Ltd, 2009.

For each person, quick internet searches were made via google, Wikipedia, newspaper archives, and findmypast etc. A source for most images is given under the image, though most are available from multiple sites.

Whilst working through each entry, if someone else interesting was found and a portrait or other image could be found another entry was made. This was great fun but quite distracting!

At this point there were about 300 entries, so the next significant listing was tackled:

14. Rory Naismith – *Medieval European Coinage*. Volume 8 Britain and Ireland c.400-1066. 2017. Pages 459-491 lists the collectors, dealers and donors associated with coins in this book. *Britain and Ireland c.400-1066* is a small subset of *British Numismatics* and as expected the list is very Cambridge/Fitzwilliam Museum biased. The list of about 400 names was worked through, eliminating minor entries (e.g. donated 1 coin, unless they did something else), institutions, the living etc. About 80 names had already been covered but this list provided another 49 people for whom an image could be found.

### **The Next Step - Token Publishing and Coin News**

Coin News is now a monthly magazine that has been published under several titles and editorships since it first appeared as a quarterly magazine in July 1964. Over the years it has had regular features about dealers, fairs, societies, authors etc. often including interviews and sometimes articles about particular 'names'. Not initially realising the enormity of the task, the project was described and permission was sought from the present Editor, publisher and copyright holder, John Mussell and Token Publishing Ltd, to use images of people that have appeared in Coin News over the years. This was agreed and the task began. Lacking just two issues (September and November 1981), it quickly became clear that three and a half yards of shelving contained about 50,000 pages!

Some weeks later . . . . .

and with an evening's help from Dave Greenhalgh who happened to be visiting, a total of 887 images, a good proportion with more than one person, had been indexed, photographed and sorted. Where pages already existed, the images were added to the record and many new pages (about 500) were created as placeholders for further work.

On a personal note, I should add that I was born in 1965 and didn't start collecting till the late 70s and only started subscribing to Coin News in the late 1990s, so all of the early issues have been acquired as a collector/completist. The magazine is an important historical record of 55 years of British Numismatics and includes many nuggets of information not available elsewhere. Having now looked through almost every page, it is possible to see the evolution of the hobby since the 1960s; people, businesses, and societies coming and going, trends in collecting, passing fads, not to mention the prices! There is even a mention of a talk I gave to the Burnley & District Numismatic Society about 'The History of the Shilling' which must have been my first ever talk (November 1984 page 13). I had completely forgotten about the talk and didn't know it had been mentioned in print!

### **Wanted Dead or Alive**

A very small proportion of the Coin News images were associated with an obituary, but the vast majority (mostly dealers and numismatic society members) came with no dates, only the knowledge that they had been included in the magazine for having recently done something in numismatics. Many but not all of the early names are likely deceased, and to check each would be a vast undertaking with no guarantee of success either way.

Thus the remit was expanded to include all of these images, with just the name, photo and reference to the location in Coin News (year-month-page).

It is hoped that anyone finding themselves in the archive will be willing to contribute a few words by way of biography and similarly if any readers know that a 'name' is deceased, or can provide a brief biography it can be added to the record. As this is an online archive, existing records can be edited, updated and expanded and new records can be added. This has a significant advantage over printed works and does allow unfinished pages to be included to act as a placeholder for future revisions.

The project will never be complete, but hopefully readers can keep adding and updating records in future. Over the next few months, it is hoped to incorporate images of numismatists held in the Coin and Medal Department of the British Museum (covid permitting) and also the contents of two private archives.

### **Desperately Seeking**

There are many gaps in the image archive, but a few have been longstanding and quite surprising, including; Isabella ('Ella') Pierrepont Barnard (1864-1934), Charles Wilson Peck (1901-1968) and W.J.W Potter (1899-1979). If any readers can provide images they will be gratefully received.

### **Refinements and Additions**

Once the first few hundred entries had been completed it became clear that other useful pages could be created including pages showing images of clubs and societies, other groups of people and shops. Just a few have been added to each of these sections and it is hoped that members of societies will be willing to send in group photos of past events, especially if they are early and also include founding members etc, along with a few short notes by way of explanation.

A separate page has been added containing illustrations of coin tickets, essentially a colour upgrade and update to the 2001 BNJ article by Eaglen, Michell and Pagan and an expansion to cover tickets from all series, collectors and dealers. For the time being it is expected that this page will have a life of its own and will be maintained separately from the 'contributors' pages. As the main ticket list is quite large, new tickets will be added periodically, but will be stored in a 'recent additions' page as they are received.

## Future Developments

Creating this archive, bumping into characters, interesting back stories, has been a bit intense, but great fun. There remains much to do, but hopefully a good foundation has been laid. I will say thankyou in advance to everyone who makes a contribution to this project.

At some point it would be good to have a small number of volunteers to join and ultimately continue this project into the future.

For the time being, all communications with suggestions, additions, corrections, personal biographies, short biographies of others and images of tickets from known names should be sent to the following email address:

**[contributors.bns@gmail.com](mailto:contributors.bns@gmail.com)**

I have no idea what the response will be, but I will try and keep on top of communications and start working through and completing the draft pages over the next few months. I apologise in advance for any errors, but hopefully these will be eliminated as the archive evolves. If readers find any web page issues – e.g. broken or incorrect links, these can be reported to the BNS webmaster Rob Page at [website.bns@gmail.com](mailto:website.bns@gmail.com) .

## Dedication

As a final thought, I would like to dedicate this work to the late Harry Manville for his five dictionaries, the breadth and depth of which I now truly appreciate.

