

THE BANS Congress 2017 took place at the Crown Hotel, Harrogate on April 7-9 and was well attended. I feel it is appropriate to express my gratitude to all those who participated. Firstly, I must commend the speakers on maintaining an exemplary standard throughout. The presentations were professional and the content both informative and entertaining. Chris Barker's Royal Mint Museum Lecture on Friday evening could not have been more contemporary and set a high standard for the rest of the speakers. Saturday morning was dedicated to the Congress's theme of Facsimiles, Fakes and Forgeries though it was rather a surprise for the organisers to learn that a theme was innovative! Adrian Marsden was anything but "Boring, Barbarous and Base" in his polished presentation of "irregular radiates" This was followed by the Linecar Memorial Lecture on tetrarchic nummi given by Vincent Drost and wisely illustrated with specimens of the coins of several audience members. The CNG Lecture, by Tony Abramson, demonstrated the enduring, if transforming, influence of some of the Roman designs discussed in the previous two papers. In the final paper of the morning session, William MacKay skilfully distinguished Viking imitations of the London monogram coinage of Alfred from the authentic West Saxon models, and gave a glimpse of his forthcoming comprehensive die-study of this glamorous series.

Sunday morning's lectures expanded the theme to cover token and obsidional coinage. Phil Mernick delivered the UK Numismatic Trust Lecture on "Medieval Jettons used in Britain" showing how and why the sources changed over time. Tristan Griffin, with a background in military history, gave a commanding exposition of how much can be gained from an interdisciplinary approach, in his numismatic history of the Civil War in Yorkshire. Similarly, a different and illuminating perspective on the social history of 17th century York was given by Melinda Mays' eloquence on the fascinating topic of commercial tokens. The conference closed with Chris Comber's lecture, generously sponsored by Baldwin's of St James's, on the Irish Harp coinage of Henry VIII, where extreme rarity compensates for any deficiency in execution. Phil and Chris demonstrated the numismatic advances to be won through dedicated specialisation. We are also grateful to the session chairs, Tony Abramson, Andy Woods and Martin Allen for maintaining the tempo.

Finally, two highlights of the weekend were the mock trial, allegedly scripted by Tony, when Mike Roberts and Adrian Bailey manfully rose to their roles of hero and villain respectively, and the auction, where Peter Preston-Morley's majestic command

was both a delightful spectacle and financial success. The 2018 BANS Congress, hosted by Bexley Coin Club, will be held at the King Charles Hotel, Gillingham, Kent in the Pembroke suite. It will take place from Friday, April 13 to Sunday 15, 2018.

Tony Abramson

President of the Yorkshire Numismatic Society