
FORTHCOMING EVENT

THE TONY ABRAMSON COLLECTION OF DARK AGE COINS – PART I

London, 12th January 2021

Tony's name will loom large amongst the numismatic fraternity, particularly amongst those for whom the Sceatta series is their collecting home. With Tony's long standing connection with Spink through its publication division, and to many more of our readership through his many familiar titles, it gives the Coin Department the rich and distinct pleasure to now bring Tony's astonishing cabinet of over 1,200 coins to market, and further inspire the next generation of connoisseurs, numismatists and investors throughout 2021.

One of only seven privately-owned collections to be awarded a dedicated Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles, Tony's collection is almost second nature to many of us, with scores of his own collection forming the plate illustrations in our annual standard catalogue and many more in his seminal 'Sceatta Lists'. The first auction will be dedicated to many of his highlights including a series of unique issues from across this broad period - a time still referred to as 'the Dark Ages' by many for whom this murky and largely anepigraphic epoch leaves much to the imagination.

This blending of early-Christian and Pagan symbolism creates an outstanding yet still neglected source of early Anglo-Saxon art. This pre-eminent and unparalleled cabinet therefore offers us all a rare glimpse into this overlooked age, with many



coins unlikely to surface again to collectors for at least another generation.

Respected for both its completeness and in its pedigree, this collection has featured in innumerable articles. To give just two examples, a number of these coins appeared in Anna Gannon's pioneering work *The Iconography of Early Anglo-Saxon Coinage* and a denier of Melle was illustrated in the ground-breaking *Alpine ice-core evidence for the transformation of the European monetary system, AD 640–670* by Chris Loveluck *et al.*

Since 2010, the collection has been housed at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge with subsequent addenda forming the basis of the complete collection that was deaccessioned in October 2020. The author and vendor wish to pass on their sincere thanks to Dr Adrian Popescu and Dr Martin Allen as well as the wider Museum team for their overwhelming assistance to Spink at the height of a pandemic.

To celebrate this important sale Spink Books are offering the last remaining copies of Tony's *Sceatta List* (second edition) at half price. Please visit www.spinkbooks.com to purchase your copy, while stocks last.

The Tony Abramson Collection of Dark Age Coinage – Part I will be offered for sale by Spink London on 12th January 2021. For further information please contact Gregory Edmund, gedmund@spink.com