



From Gold to Silver in the Seventh Century

A workshop to be held in GR06/7, Faculty of English, 9 West Road,
Cambridge, CB3 9DP

It has long been known that the seventh century witnessed fundamental changes in the economic and monetary landscape of northwest Europe. At the heart of this process was the metamorphosis of a system derived from late Roman gold denominations into silver pennies familiar from subsequent centuries. Recent research by archaeologists has reignited discussion of these changes and created challenging questions for the entire subject. A central aim of this workshop is to create a dialogue on these developments between leading specialists from a range of disciplines, including historians and numismatists as well as archaeologists. Through close comparison of evidence from England, the Low Countries and France, we intend to address fundamental questions of chronology and causation in the transformation of seventh-century currency, together with the implications these changes raise for the contemporary archaeological and historical record.

Registration is £10; £7 for students. Please contact Dr Rory Naismith (rn242@cam.ac.uk) if you would like to attend.

Friday 27 March

1.30pm: welcome (Dr Rory Naismith, University of Cambridge)

1.45–3.15pm

Prof John Hines, Cardiff University: ‘A Chronological Problem: Scientific and Mathematical Dating of Burial Contexts and a Numismatic Chronology for the Introduction of Primary Sceattas’

Prof Chris Scull, Cardiff University/UCL: ‘Sceattas in Anglo-Saxon Graves: Chronology and Culture’

3.15–3.45pm: coffee break

3.45–5.15pm

Dr Arent Pol, Leiden University, ‘Continental Gold Coins in Seventh-Century England: Impressions of the Chronological Implications’

Dr Gareth Williams, British Museum: ‘Early Anglo-Saxon Gold Coinage: Classification, Attribution and Chronology’

Saturday 28 March

9.30–11am

Prof Barbara Yorke, University of Winchester, ‘The Early Silver Coinage and Anglo-Saxon Kingship’

Dr Rory Naismith, University of Cambridge: ‘Early Anglo-Saxon Coinage and its Chronology in Context’

11–11.30am: coffee break

11.30am–1pm

Marion Archibald, British Museum: ‘Sceattas: in Search of an Absolute Chronology’

Dr Anna Gannon, University of Cambridge: ‘Can Iconography Help with Chronology?’

1–1.15pm: closing remarks