

It is with great sadness we report the sudden passing of our Vice-Chairman **Dr JOHN RAINY, MBE**, in the morning of 10th February. John was one of the most long-standing members of the Numismatic Society of Ireland Northern Branch, which he joined in the Society's inaugural year of 1963 at the innocent age of 12.

His earlier years as a member of the Society were blessed by the friendship of most illustrious Ulster numismatists and collectors of the time. Inspired by all aspects of collecting Irish coins and tokens, in his teenage years, under the influence of Prof. Michael Dolley and Dr Wilfred Seaby, he fell in love with Irish Gunmoney series, being particularly fond of the Limerick money, which later on resulted in outstanding research contributions to several fundamental works on the subject, as well as in a number of influential talks and lesser papers. Later on, John developed a passion in the earliest Manx coinage, alongside an overwhelming interest in numismatic books and manuscripts.

All members of the Society will forever remember John as a person most devoted to collecting, studying, and artistic appraisal of Irish and British coins, tokens and badges. Without exception, his approach was always meticulous with a great deal of attention given to all apparent features, provenance, historical context, and reporting on every coin he handled. John was a nonpareil authority and unique reference point for many collectors and dealers worldwide who had never failed to receive from him the most up-to-date information that they could fully rely on as true, original, and most accurate. In all the Society's adventures, summer trips, special meetings, and public initiatives, John was invariably at the forefront, leading, supporting fellow collectors and raising their confidence, as well as promoting the hobby in all imaginable ways. John was a man whose kindness, enthusiasm, and unwavering support touched everyone he encountered. He carried himself with quiet strength and genuine warmth, always ready with a smile or a word of encouragement. He was a true gentleman as well as a collector and scholar.

John will be greatly missed by many in the hobby and trade. Our hearts these days are with John's family and friends.

