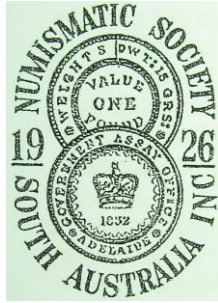


The Numismatic Society of South Australia Inc.



Newsletter No. 101, June 2012.

Society meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, in the Royal Society Room behind the State Library off Kintore Avenue, Adelaide from 7.45 pm. Supper afterwards, visitors welcome. **Postal address** P.O. Box 2029, Kent Town S.A. 5071.

Newsletter compiled by Mick Vort-Ronald, primarily from minutes of Society meetings recorded by the Secretary.

Contact details for Mick are; phone (08) 8522 4490, P.O. Box 653 Willaston S.A. 5118, email vortronald@yp-connect.net

For daytime **information** phone or see Grant Morton at I.S. Wright's coin shop, 2nd floor, 138 Rundle Mall, Adelaide Phone (08) 8232 7188.

After hours enquiries, Mick Vort-Ronald, (contacts as above) or on mobile at **0417 212 906** on meeting nights for messages etc. Please do not send text messages.

Members attending meetings **speaking** on various topics are encouraged to provide the secretary with brief **details** of the subjects and examples produced **in writing** to allow accurate recording in the Society minutes. This will make his task much easier and ensure that correct information is later used in this newsletter for the information of other members and clubs.

Newsletters are now being presented via **email** for those who have the capacity to receive them. In this way you can get your newsletter quicker and better than the printed version. Please advise Mick of your email address for future issues. This is more efficient and saves the society money – now that your newsletter editor has advanced a little bit more with his (lack of) computer skills. For those who do not have access to the Internet, or want **hard copy** anyway, hard copies will still be produced and posted if requested.

PS. **Mick** found as temporary custodian of the attendance book that he first visited the society on 21 January 1982 with his wife and son, and signed as a member on 15.7.82. At that time he was a police sergeant stationed at Whyalla and could not regularly attend meetings. For his publications on Australian notes he was made a Fellow of the society in 1985. At the July 2012 meeting he will have been a member for exactly 30 years.

NSSA meeting No. 870, Royal Society Room, 19 April 2012.

1. Letters from Don and Charles received, each with donation of the new **Canadian \$50**. Members viewed the notes, which were considered better than the new \$100ds, but still lacked vibrancy. It was agreed to donate these and further issues to the Powerhouse Museum. Mick has spoken to Paul Donnelly who has said he will wait until he gets several notes before processing them.
2. Ebsco subscription service requesting refund of membership for **Ken Christian in US**. Reply previously sent stating no refund due. Members agreed to ignore request.
3. Letter from Mick to Tauranga NS in NZ re use of his **Importance of Hoards** article in their newsletter, requesting acknowledgement of source in their next newsletter.
4. From Roger McNeice re his new book **Fight the Fiery Fiend**, pre-publication price \$18 post included for 130 pages – fire-fighting in Tasmania 1803-1883. Includes a lot of information about O.H. **Hedberg**, token issuer.

Newsletter No.100. Extra copies were printed for distribution to prospective members at the forthcoming **Postcard Show**. Shane reminded members of the show 5/6 May Torrens Parade Ground, he, Richard and Mick have tables. Barrie to contact organizer to see if he can make a late decision for a table after he returns from overseas.

CAB draw won by Coral, 2nd "prize" to Peter H., 3rd price \$100 fridge magnet to Ray. Mick showed a photocopy of his 1988 note collection and elaborated on a **Bank of SA £1** note 1883 purchased from England in the days when you needed approval to send money overseas and had to prove the value of the item purchased. He also showed a photocopy of a pair of Knight Wheeler side thread **first prefix (XQR) \$20** notes sold for under \$100 in his 1988 auction, now worth around \$10,000 the pair.



Neil showed the **2012 six coin** unc. and proof sets. The unc. set had a coloured 50c. and the proof set a gold plated 50c. The 2012 two coin year sets both featured the theme "Australian Wheat -Fields of Gold", the 20c with an ear of wheat and the \$1, reaping.

Frank showed two **German 1972 Olympic** 10 marks, 1974 5 mark and a UK 1937 5/-.

Paul showed Scottish agricultural medals; (a) General Agricultural Association of **Ayrshire 1871**, (b) Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland **1877** and (c) Carrick Farmers Society **1886**.

Peter F. showed (a) 1887 **Adelaide Jubilee Exhibition** copper electroplated image of award medal, framed in a brass surround, (b) **Parramatta** Juvenile & Industrial Exhibition bronze award to P.T. Hammond for oil painting, diameter 30mm. (c) 1902 English Coronation silver medalette, 24 mm., for **Edward VII** and Queen Alexandra.

Shane showed two uncirculated notes from the **New England Commercial Bank (USA)** \$2 and \$5 issued mid 1850s.

NSSA meeting No. 870, Royal Society Room, 19 April 2012, continued.

Mick donated nine **1972 Loxton Gemboree** enameled badges and key-rings to members, and various issues of International Banknote Society journals and other old NAV newsletters – ex NSSA library.

Michael produced the auction catalogue for the **Prospera auction** in New York of Green coins, around 600 lots realized \$25 million US.

Richard showed (a) **Vandals** copper unit 480-523, (b) **Auxmite** gold unit 5th century, (c) Anglo-Saxon penny Alfred the Great 871-899, (d) **Anglo Saxon** sceat 695-740, (e) Byzantine **Justinian** gold coin 527-565 and (f) **Bohemond** silver gros 1275-1287. Richard went on to talk about the **dark ages** from around 400 AD to 1000 AD and quoted from Winston **Churchill's** book. Of special note was that the Greeks and Romans depicted the world as round on coins, but this knowledge was lost or ignored during the **dark ages** when you could be burnt at the stake for heresy for saying the world was not flat.

now heathen. Its inhabitants had rejoiced in well-planned cities, with temples, markets, academies. They had nourished craftsmen and merchants, professors of literature and rhetoric. For four hundred years there had been order and law, respect for property, and a widening culture. All had vanished. The buildings, such as they were, were of wood, not stone. The people had lost entirely the art of writing. Some miserable runic scribblings were the only means by which they could convey their thoughts or wishes to one another at a distance. Barbarism reigned in its rags, without even the stern military principles which had animated and preserved the Germanic tribes. The confusion and conflict of petty ruffians sometimes called kings racked the land. There was nothing worthy of the name of nationhood, or even of tribalism; yet this is a transition

Reproduced from page 50 of Mick's copy of "A History of the English-speaking Peoples" Volume 1, The Birth of Britain, by Winston S. Churchill, Cassell and Company Ltd., London 1936. Richard really prizes his copy of the book. Mick found his copy on 7.7.12 at a garage sale for \$1.50 !!!

Peter L. showed Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of SA badges, (a) 1969 bar council (b) 1970 and 1975 Hon. council members, all made by AJ Parkes, Brisbane.

NSSA meeting No. 871, Royal Society Room, on 17 May 2012

Digital Camera/Projector: Mick advised that he had purchased a wind-up stand for the equipment and hoped that it could be modified for use by the Society.

Report on NSSA members' attendance at the Australian Postcard Society exhibition 5/6 May 2012: 4 members had taken up trading tables at the exhibition with varying degrees of success. Although the general attendance was low, members considered that it was well run and affordable and they would be interested in taking up trading tables at the Philatelic & Coin Show to be held at Torrens Training Depot on 13/14 October 2012.

Correspondence: Usual newsletters and catalogues. Letter from Powerhouse Museum, Sydney acknowledging the donation of the Canadian \$100- polymer notes. Copies to be sent to the donors. The new Can \$50- notes donated were likewise forwarded to Paul

NSSA meeting No. 871, Royal Society Room, on 17 May 2012, continued

Donnelly of the Powerhouse Museum.

Door Prize: The Door Prize was won by Barrie. *New Member:* It was moved that **Paul J.** be accepted a member of the NSSA. Carried with acclamation.

Richard showed a) two medals, one in silver and one in bronze, commemorating Charles **Kingsford Smith** (b. 9 Feb 1897 d. 8 Nov 1935) and gave a detailed account of his life and tremendous achievements as a flying ace and aviator, b) 1922 US silver \$1.

Peter L. showed a copper/bronze **Edward Macarthur** medal 1856 purported to have been the first medal struck at the Sydney Mint. It was possibly commissioned by Macarthur when he was acting Governor of Victoria as a medal to be presented for 'civil or military excellence. Peter L. gave a detailed account on his life and times.

Shane showed 2 x unissued **US obsolete Two Dollar Notes** from the mid 1800s a) Sussex Bank of New Jersey, b) **Citizens' Bank of Louisiana.**

Peter H. showed a Sterling silver "**Sweetheart**" brooch – 1st AIF Light Horse – obtained recently from Burra.

Mark showed 2 mules (coins with obverse and reverse dies not intended to be used on the same coin): a) 1936H **British West Africa 1d muled** with an East Africa Edward VIII 10c (Heaton Mint) obverse, b) 1967 **New Zealand 2c muled** with a Bahamas 5c obverse – 68,000 of these coins were struck.

Paul S. showed a) **Festival of Britain** copper base, vitreous enamel badge with blue ribbon at top (produced about end of WWI), b) a **1925 farthing** encased within a locket comprising a halfpenny on the top and an embossed ship on the back, c) a silver brooch featuring the **Jagermeister** logo of a stag bearing a cross between its antlers.

Peter F. showed 4 children's badges produced by British papers a) 1960s **Liverpool Echo** Children's Club blue and white enameled badge, b) 1930s **The People The Cheery Coons Club** "EB-FLO" yellow and black enameled badge, c) 1930s **London Daily Herald Bobby Bear Club** red enameled surround badge, d) 1936-1939 **Mickey Mouse Weekly Mickey Mouse Chums Club** red and black enameled badge.

Barrie showed a) 4 x 18C/19C replica **Prussian Orders**, b) **Gold Buyers Germany** envelopes, used to promote purchase of personal items of gold, obtained by him when he visited Dresden recently, c) encased piece on card (with photo of the scene) of the **Berlin Wall** purported to be from the Wall when it 'came down' on 9 Nov 1989.

Mick discussed differences between Currency Notes and Promissory Notes as featured in his 2nd edition "**Australian Currency & Promissory Notes** and showed a photo of 2 June 1823 two Spanish Dollar note.

N.S.S.A. Meeting No. 872, Royal Society Room, 21 June 2012

Vale John Downey: The passing of our valued member, John Downey, was recorded with much regret. A good representation from the NSSA – both past and present members – attended the funeral and President Mick gave a eulogy on behalf of the NSSA. See article on page 6 supplied for CAB magazine.

Application for affiliate membership of the South Australian Philatelic Council: The Secretary advised that the SA Philatelic Council had **approved** the NSSA Affiliate Membership of the Council at their executive meeting held on 11 June. Further details would be advised to us in due course.

Digital Camera/Projector: Mick advised that the wind-up stand for the equipment had been modified for use by the Society and he would trial it at the next meeting.

N.S.S.A. Meeting No. 872, Royal Society Room, 21 June 2012, continued.

Supper arrangements: Peter F. agreed to attend to supper arrangements for the next 6m. Letters sent to Charles and Don Canada thanking them for their donations of Canadian **\$100- and \$50-** polymer notes, on-donated by the NSSA to the Powerhouse Museum.

Peter L. advised that the Journal (JNAA22) had now been printed (144 pages) and would be delivered in the next few weeks. He advised that the **AGM of the NAA** was to be held at I S Wright, Sydney on Fri 27 July. He commented that some delegates had criticized the Journal for not having more articles with Australian-NZ flavour and that it seemed to be too heavily weighted on “ancients”. **Door Prize** won by Barrie.

Life Membership: The President advised that there were at least 2 members who had been members of the Society for 50 years and they should receive recognition for this achievement. A Notice of Motion was carried for the next AGM to change the Constitution to create a position of Life Member after 50 years membership. See page 6.

SA Art Gallery Exhibition: Peter L. advised that the current exhibition “Bounty” in the SA Art Gallery featuring **gold and silver** items of early South Australia including the 1852 Adelaide Pound and an 1852 ingot was worth a visit.

Mick showed a) examples of old bank Bills of Exchange, b) a piece of fossilized **dinosaur’s** dung known as “coprolite”.

Barrie showed a) three recent items produced by The Adelaide Mint – **Glenelg Golf Club** Founders Society lapel badge with blue sapphire attached at top, gold plated “Lion Rampant” on Ja lapel pin with red vitreous enamel background, vitreous enamel cuff-link with Greek lettering; b) fine silver .999+ business card “**John K M Yuen**, Chartered Accountant”; c) signed postcard by **Arthur Bergen** “97 Not Out 24/05/11” with doctored Adelaide Oval Score Board.

Peter F. showed a) 18 June 1927 Church **Lads’ Brigade** medallion featuring Royal Review “Present on Parade” on one side and Edward Prince of Wales on other side, with red, white, blue ribbon in a Hinds Ltd London box; b) two **Robe** Pastoral Agricultural & Horticultural Association medallions produced by H Steiner – 6 Sep 1877 1st Prize Annual Show “Best Stallion Rob Roy” won by D McPherson, and 19 Sep 1879 Annual Show “Best blood mare with foal”.

Shane showed 1939 Austrian **20 Reichsmark** propaganda note with unique colour matrix. (The image of the girl was copied from an earlier 100 schilling un-issued Austrian note – the girl was from Tirol Austria and so called by Germans “Tirolerschein”).

Paul showed a bronze medallion from **Prior Park College**, Somerset – 50mm featuring St . Peter with the keys to Heaven and St Paul with a book.

Peter L. showed a) 6 EPNS cutlery items “**Commonwealth Bank**” purchased in Gilgandra NSW, b) Australian Numismatic Society Literary Award “**Tom Hanley Cup**” won by him for 2011 also showing names of 8 previous winners since 1997, c) 4 x “**Help Orphans**” children’s metal badges, d) 1939 white metal medallion “**Princess Elizabeth** born April 21, 1926 Heir Presumptive”, e) ANS Conference gilt medallion 8-10 June 2012 Port Macquarie, f) 1875 copper medallion with ring ‘**Coffin Ship**’ “House of Commons S Plimsoll”, g) glass tankard produced for 1949 “**Royal Visit King George VI & Queen Elizabeth**”.

New member Paul J. showed a **gold noble** and gave a detailed description of the noble. Richard showed a) 1694 white metal cast medal Death of **Queen Mary II**, b) 1736 **Jernigans** Prize Lottery silver medal “Both hands filled for Britain – Growing arts adorn Empire”, c) Sterling silver Queen of South Africa **Boer War** Medal issued to 5609 Pte. F Putkiss Suffolk Reg MI (186,000 were issued).



Vale John Downey

Edwin John Downey was born 16 September 1937 and died 10 June 2012, aged 74 years. He was a highly respected and appreciated Fellow of the Numismatic Society of South Australia long before I joined the society nearly 30 years ago.

Apart from numismatic knowledge, what stood out about John was his reliability and caring. He always asked about, and was genuinely interested in his friends and their families wellbeing, and willing to lend a hand.

He had a keen mind and a very good memory about a wide range of topics and history, maintaining scrap books from newspapers for decades and assembling (as many of us "coinies" do) a large reference library. Ask John about anything, no matter how seemingly trivial, and he often knew the answer. If he didn't, he would go and find out and tell you later. From about 1975 he worked for Laurie Nugent at Rundle Coins in Adelaide for around two years before going into partnership with Graham Parry and trading under the same name for a further 1-2 years.

Kind and generous, he was a crucial part of our numismatic meetings for many years by also providing the tea and bikkies (and often much more) which made our gatherings all the more enjoyable. Half a dozen society members attended his funeral on June 18 where I was given the honour of speaking on behalf of the society. J.D. will be sorely missed by his wife Beverley and children, and a wide group of friends.

On a personal note, in 2004 he helped my wife and I to enjoy a three week holiday in the U.K. by living at our museum in Kadina to look after our two cats and the garden. That was the sort of mate that John was.

Mick Vort-Ronald, President.