



## The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

### NEWSLETTER 103 – December 2012.

**Society meetings** are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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, (as above) or on mobile at **0417 212 906** on meeting nights for messages etc. Please do not send text, SMS or leave 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, AND IN COLOUR. Please advise Mick of your email address for future issues. This is more efficient and saves the society money. For those who do not have access to the Internet, or want **hard copy** in black and white anyway, some copies will still be produced and posted if requested.



Rare specimen, or a mockup? – see page 9.

Meeting No. 876 held at the Royal Society Room, Adelaide on 18 **October** 2012

Business Arising from Minutes: *Life Membership*: The President advised that there were 5 members eligible for Life Membership once approval for the category of Life Membership has been formalized at the AGM in November.

*Stamp & Coin Show Torrens Training Depot 6/7 Oct 12*: The two members who had tables at the Show reported that, although the emphasis was more on stamps than coins, they were satisfied to have been associated with the activity. It was agreed that our Society make representation to the SA Philatelic Council that future Shows include an award category for “Best Coin Exhibit” and that they more widely promote the involvement of coin exhibits and trading tables.

The President advised that he had been interviewed on ABC Radio concerning the possible designs for new Australian banknotes.

NAA Report: editors were looking for articles with an **Australian content** for the next issue of the Journal. Other Business: *Door Prize*: The Door Prize was won by Paul J. *Nominations for Office Bearers for following year were received*.

*Melbourne Stamp & Coin Exhibition*: David F. advised that this exhibition in Melbourne to be held on 10-15 May 2013 would highlight the Centenary of the first Australian banknote, the bi-Centenary of the Holey Dollar and Dump and the Centenary of the Kangaroo & Map series of Australian stamps.

*John Downey Memorabilia*: a number of scrap books, newspaper cuttings and printed items donated by Bev Downey were auctioned for the NSSA’s benefit. A total of \$56 was raised and was credited to our account.



Shane showed 1854 Rail Bond (Stock Certificate) cut-cancelled of Columbus Piqua & Indiana Railroad Company.



Richard showed a series of coins of George III and discussed their relevance and importance in the coinage of the British realm, issued 1760-1820 and circulated throughout America, early Australia and during the French Revolution. The coins shown were: guinea, half-guinea (fake), crown, three shillings (fake), one shilling & sixpence, one shilling, sixpence, one shilling (token), sixpence (token), penny (token),

half-penny (token), 2 x Maundy two pence, 2 x farthing, penny, two penny, smuggler penny, 1772 coin weight and Geo IV two shillings & sixpence.

Peter H. showed 1923 Half-million marks aluminium coin issued by Hamburg State during German inflationary period.



Paul J. showed a) tin badge featuring photo of General Pau, a French General during WWI, who visited Australia in 1918 meeting Aust veterans, b) tin badge for Appreciation Day featuring British & Australian flags and a flag with a star shown (possibly Salvation Army).

Peter L. showed 3 x “Head Tax” tokens issued in New Guinea up to 1942, with scratched engravings on reverses (one with number and name of Australian soldier “VX35099 KJ Alford”, other two in Japanese wording – “Motoi 2816” and “Otaira Hideo”) indicating collected by Australian and Japanese soldiers during WW2.



Peter F. showed 1886 silver medallion Northern Agricultural Show, Auburn SA, 50mm, “Awarded to A Brogan for 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Draught Mare ‘Queen’” with obverse featuring a horse and a cow, with original box stamped “NAS Auburn”.



Ray showed a series of 3 carded encapsulated coins produced by RAM commemorating the Bombing of Darwin titled “Shores Under Seige” issued in 2012 – unc. 2 x 20 cents and 1 x 50 cents.

Frank showed a) 2000 pesos note Banco de la Republica, Columbia 2010, b) 20,000 pesos note Banco de la Republica, Columbia, 2007.



Neil showed 5 Australian “error coins” a) 1951 Melb penny with obv planchet fault, b) 1952 Melb penny with obv & rev planchet faults and a double strike on the date, c) 1943 Perth penny with die crack from rim to tail of kangaroo, d) 2001 10 cents with die crack from rim through Queen’s neck, e) 2011 20 cents 10<sup>th</sup> Anniv of Volunteers with fault showing one of volunteers on surround looking like an angel.

Barrie showed a set of 4 medallions produced by The Adelaide Mint for the Early History of Australian Test Cricket – Charlie Turner 1886-1895 Tests, Jack Blackham 1876-1895 Tests, Fred Spofforth 1876-1887 Tests, George Giffen 1881-1896 Tests.

**Annual General Meeting** and Monthly Meeting No. 877 held at the Royal Society Room, Adelaide on 15 **November** 2012. Visitor: Terry W.

Treasurer’s and Auditor’s Reports for Past Year: The Treasurer presented the un-audited Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2012, which recorded a Profit of \$379.32 after allocation of Interest earned on our Fixed Deposit. The Treasurer advised that the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2012 were with the Auditors and would be confirmed at the next meeting. Moved that the Treasurer’s Report be received subject to audit, carried.

President’s Award for Best Numismatic Presentation During Year: The President announced that Richard was the recipient of the award for his numerous and interesting showings of ancient and unique coins and his interesting talks thereon over the past year, and for introducing a number of new members into the Society.



**Fellow** of the NSSA: Barrie Newman was appointed a Fellow of The Numismatic Society of South Australia in recognition and appreciation of outstanding service to the Society.

Barrie (left) being presented with his certificate by Mick (right).

**Constitution** of The Numismatic Society of South Australia Inc:

a) Life Members: It was moved Barrie and Richard that the Constitution of the Society be amended under Section 3 “MEMBERSHIP” to include an additional category of “(d) LIFE MEMBER – A member may be awarded Life Membership in recognition and appreciation of 50 years continuous membership of the Society.

A Life Member shall not be required to pay annual subscriptions thereafter and shall retain full membership rights.” Carried unanimously.

b) Councillors: It was moved Barrie / Peter L. that the Constitution of the Society be amended under Section 7 “COUNCIL and OFFICERS” paragraph 1 to allow additional Councillors to be appointed and that the words “at least” be inserted before “three Councillors” on line 2. Carried unanimously.



**Presentation of Life Memberships:** The following members were awarded Life Membership of the Society in recognition and appreciation of 50 years continuous membership of the Society: Maurice (member since Feb 1960), Colin (member since Apr 1960), Lloyd (member since Sep 1961), Jim (member since Sep 1962) and Kevin (member since Oct 1962). Maurice (left) and Kevin (right) being present, were presented with their Life Member medallions and certificates by president Mick.

**President’s Report** and Numismatic Address: The President, Mick Vort-Ronald, gave a short Report highlighting the increased attendance at the monthly meetings and the enthusiasm of members shown at the meetings and thanked those who had assisted in the running of the Society over the past year. He also acknowledged the successful use of the digital microscopic camera at the meetings and the benefits it provided in reproducing the quarterly newsletters and in emails. He then presented his Address on “The Importance of Auctions”, see pages 9 and 10.

**Election of Officers** for ensuing year: Those nominated were duly elected: Also, Public Officer: Barrie Newman, Editor of Newsletter and Occasional Journal: Mick Vort-Ronald, auditors: Seagrims accounting, subscriptions be left unchanged at \$20 for Australian members and \$30 for overseas members. The *Door Prize* was won by visitor Terry.

**NAA Report:** Peter L. advised that the NAA 2013AGM would be held in Sydney on Friday 22 Feb 13 to be followed by a Dinner for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ANS on Sat 23 Feb 13 and that the next NAA Conference would be held in Brisbane at a date to be confirmed. He also advised that the Art Gallery of SA had accepted a donation of two medallions commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **Sir Ross & Sir Keith Smith** flight from England to Australia in 1919 to complement their existing Smith memorabilia. He showed photos of the 1913 -1924 1000 pound note held at AGSA.

Mick tabled press cutting from “The Australian” 27 Sep 12 showing new designs for Australian polymer notes and October issue of Currency Magazine from Reserve

Bank of Australia. He also commented that 2013 would be the **centenary** of the first Commonwealth **note** (10/- May 1913) and he would not be surprised if the RBA issued a **commemorative banknote**. (Story about the interview in November CAB).

Peter L. showed a) commemorative medallion issued to attendees of ANS Queensland Branch 50 year Dinner – hand engraved on a 1962 penny “50 years ANS Qld”, b) epns silver trowel with bone handle engraved “**Rev George Lane** Wesleyan Church, St Albans, Sydney 3 July 1901”. Kevin showed a two headed penny.

Visitor Terry showed a copper medallion “ANZAC Day 1918 Gallipoli, France, Palestine – Honour to AIF”.

Shane showed a highly ornate large unc 500 mark banknote issued in 1923 in Saxony/Dresden.

Neil showed latest RAM issues a) 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Australian Ballet – 50 cent coin on a card, b) Lunar Year of the Dragon – 50 cent tetra-decagonal coin in a folder, c) Sydney Swans 2012 AFL Premiers – limited edition PNC with 60c stamp and \$1 coin, d) Remembrance Day 2012 \$2 “**red coloured poppy**” coin issued exclusively through the RSL, e) Remembrance Day 2012 \$2 “red coloured poppy” coin with ‘C’ mintmark in a folder, f) Remembrance Day 2012 – limited edition PNC with 60c stamp and \$2 “red coloured poppy” coin with ‘C’ mintmark.

Richard showed a) 4 samples of fake 1930 Australian pennies, b) 10 x halfpenny tokens – Tasmania & Victoria, c) 28 x penny tokens – Vic, NSW, Tas and New Zealand.

Frank showed uncirculated sets in plastic cases, a) 6x Hawaiian 5 dollars, gold plated, b) 6 x one crown cupro-nickel Queen Mother, c) Isle of Man one crown cupro-nickel – bi-cent of steam navigation.

Meeting No. 878 held at the Royal Society Room, Adelaide on 20 **December** 2012



Business Arising from Minutes: *Life Membership*: The new President presented **Life Membership** medallion and certificate to Lloyd for 50 years’ membership of the Society. Peter (left) and Lloyd (right).

*Auditor's Report:* The Treasurer advised that he had received the audited accounts for the year ended 30 September 2012 from the Auditor confirming the accounts presented at the AGM. It was moved that the audited accounts be accepted and attached to the Minutes of the AGM dated 15 November 2012. Carried.

Letter from Transport Authorities Retired Employees' Assn, Taree Branch, re centenary medallion for purchase.



Letters were received from Charles Waites and Harold Don Allen in Canada each enclosing a latest **\$20 Canadian polymer note**. These to be donated to the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney and passed on to the Museum by Peter when he next visits Sydney. Mick advised that when trying to scan the note for this newsletter his scanner shut down. It appears the notes are anti-scan. By sheer co-incidence (?), his computer necessitated a repair bill of over \$500 the next day, which included a new motherboard and other upgrades.

Richard commented that regarding the cost of our last **audit** (\$165), current legislation negated the requirements for associations with gross annual receipts under \$500,000 to present accounts to the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs, it seemed exorbitant that the Society have a certified accountant/auditor to audit the Society's books. The Secretary advised that it was common practice these days for small associations to have internal auditors. It was moved and carried that Paul J. be appointed Honorary Auditor for the ensuing 12 months.

NAA Report: Peter L. confirmed that he and the President, Walter Bloom, would be attending the NAA AGM in Sydney and the 100th Anniversary of the ANS.

Other Business: *Door Prize:* The Door Prize was won by Lloyd. **Long Service to the Society:** The Secretary commented that, now that the Society awarded Life Membership in recognition of 50 years membership of the Society and presented a special medallion to those members recognizing their Life Membership, it would be most appropriate for a medallion to be presented to **Harold Don Allen**, a Fellow and Honorary Life Member, who has continued to contribute much to the Society and has been the Society's Special Representative for Canada since July 1961. It was moved Barrie/Shane that a special Medallion be presented to Harold Don Allen for "50 years Service" to the Society. Carried unanimously.

*Microscope/camera:* Mick said he would ensure that the digital **microscope** used at meetings and for this newsletter be donated to the Society if and when he was no longer a member of the society, or had no further requirement for it.

Lloyd showed an "Istros Thrace" 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC cast bronze coin featuring a four-spoked wheel.

Shane showed a 100,000 mark Reichsbanknote issued in Berlin 1 February 1923.



Richard showed a 1551 Edward VI 40 mm Sterling silver crown and commented how Adolf Hitler's father took his step-father's name of "Hiedler" rather than "Schicklegruber", and that "Hiedler" subsequently became "**Hitler**".

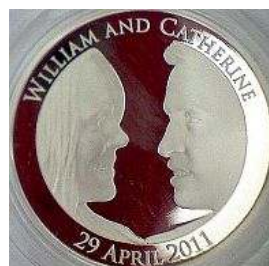


Peter L. showed 11 "Fire Drill" medallions (5 gold gilt, 6 silver) awarded to **John Orr**, Traralgon (hand-engraved) c1880-1890.



Paul J. showed a) two **Gold Angels** – Henry VII and Henry VIII and commented that the value of the Angel fluctuated over time (in 1526, during reign of Henry VIII, it increased to seven shillings and sixpence, in 1544 it increased to eight shillings, in 1550 it increased to ten shillings, in 1612 it increased to eleven shillings and in 1619 it decreased to ten shillings), b) a **Trilobite** from the Atlas Mountains, Morocco (the Silurian Period - 400 million years old).

Ray showed a 2012 British Royal Mint commemorative 10 coin set, total face value 10 pounds 88 pence. He commented that the reverses of 6 of the lower value coins each comprised a part taken from the reverse of the one pound coin.



Coral showed a 2011 British five pounds commemorative coin for wedding of **Prince William** to **Catherine** – 29 April 2011. Colour in picture due to reflection.



Frank showed a) German “**Jeton** county” Queen Victoria bronze, b) 6 x silver proof \$10- Australian coins commemorating Australia’s Olympic Legends – Rose, Fraser, Durack, Flack, Strickland, Cuthbert.

Mick showed photocopies of two **New Note Series \$10** notes with the **same specimen number** 0684. One was the usual AA93 000000, the other from circulating notes range GF93 684491. The GF note was sold by Charles Leskie auction for \$3,750 in August 2012 ex note designer Max Robinson. The AA93 Note was advertised by Rare Coin Co. for around \$85,000. Other recent auction sale prices for AA93 \$10 specimens have ranged from \$7,500 to \$11,500 and higher. The GF Note appears to have been taken from circulation and may have been misnumbered. If so, it is rare as the only circulation note known with specimen overprinting. Another possibility is that it is a mockup. Mick will enquire with RBA as the notes will be featured in his new book Australian Specimen Banknotes due to go to the printer in about a week. (The RBA later advised their records did not show two notes with that specimen number, and it is believed all had the serial numbers AA93 000000. The mockup theory seems more possible). Close-up picture on page 1.

Peter F. showed a “Daily Record - **Chum Club**” badge which had been repaired for him by The Adelaide Mint. Meeting closed at 9.30pm followed by Christmas supper.

## **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AGM, November 2012**

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF AUCTIONS by Mick Vort-Ronald**

The importance of coin auctions, and more importantly auction catalogues to numismatics cannot be overstated.

The first such major auction in Australia occurred on 30 October 1975 when Spink & Son of London combined with Max Stern & Co. of Melbourne to present 535 Lots for sale to the general public. It included 2 holey dollars, an Adelaide pound, kookaburra trials, early currency notes, private bank notes, two £20 superscribed notes and other early rare notes. The catalogue had 69 pages and weighed 210 grams. Two superscribed £20 notes have never appeared together in any auction since.

The following year Max Stern auctioned 1611 Lots, which included 5 Adelaide pounds, followed in July 1977 when he auctioned the extensive Australian banknote collection of Keith Deutsher, which lacked only one unverified variety, and then another auction in October 1977.

P. J. Downie joined the major trend in September 1978 when he auctioned the Roy Brook collection in 617 lots, and scattered around that time were smaller regular auctions by M. R. Roberts. Downies auctions began earlier than the major ones previously mentioned, with more humble beginnings, but its latest catalogue for auction 312 in October-November had 3211 lots, 142 pages and weighed 800 grams.

## **Importance of auctions, continued -**

Stern auctions faded from the scene, but Spink auctions continued regularly, became Spink Noble and finally Noble Numismatics auctions, which is about to hold its 101st auction in five days time. The catalogue for that auction (smaller than some previous ones) has over 4,700 lots, nearly 500 pages and weighs almost 2 kilograms.

Another major player has been Status International, or I. S. Wright. Its 292nd auction was held in October this year with a massive 8,922 lots. Included in that number of auctions are those dealing separately with stamps, and with militaria.

In more recent times there have been regular and irregular auctions by smaller operators, but the standout best of all auctions are the Spink-Noble auctions because of their consistent presentation, comprehensiveness and illustrations.

In my sphere of interest, Australian banknotes, these catalogues have been absolutely essential for my study and consequent writing and publication of dozens of specialised books, including two I am working on now, my 68th and 69th publications, which I hope to have printed in time for my 69th birthday in December.

The great thing about banknotes is that they have serial numbers, and the Spink-Noble catalogues have always quoted them, along with a lot of other information.. This has been a major source of detail for many publications, and is a credit to the auctioneers for going to the time and expense of including it. Some auction catalogues do not include such details, partly to save room and thus expense in printing, but sometimes to keep purchasers happy so that individual items cannot be identified when on sold. If you allot an average of say 5,000 lots for 100 Spink-Noble auctions, that makes around half a million lots offered by just one source in the last 35 years. Add to this all the other auctions and the total is well over a million lots, many of which contained multiple items.

This presents a wonderful and permanent resource, if you have been lucky and determined enough to obtain and preserve the many hundreds of catalogues. In more recent years, Nobles, and some others, have also produced websites to allow access to their archives, and the ability to group various types of material.

But the real value of these catalogues is for the determined researcher who has the time and dedication to study, collate and consolidate the information contained in them, and the space to organise and keep them for reference. These catalogues have enabled me to produce books on almost every conceivable aspect of Australian banknotes and related material for the pleasure and more importantly the education of all concerned for over 35 years. This is very much appreciated, and a well overdue thank you is thus given to all those concerned in catalogue productions over many decades.

**NSSA Newsletter 103, December 2012.**