



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 107 – December 2013.

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 2183, Kent Town S.A. 5071. Secretary; Barrie Newman, phone (08) 8362 1167 or email adelaidemint@bigpond.com

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 Mobile as below.

For daytime **information** phone or see Grant Morton at I.S. Wright coin shop, Shop 23 Adelaide Arcade (between Rundle Mall – Grenfell St.) Adelaide, Phone (08) 8223 7603. **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 on the phones.

Annual membership **subscriptions** are \$20 in Australia and \$30 overseas. They can now also be paid by **EFT** to 015 590 4981 20308 (ANZ) stating surname and/or postcode. Subs need to be renewed from November please.

Members attending meetings **speaking** on various topics are encouraged to provide the secretary with brief **details** of the subjects and examples produced in **writing** on the night or sent by email to the secretary 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 sent via **email** to 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 Barrie 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 still want **hard copy** in black and white, some copies will still be produced and posted if requested. As a result of sending our emailed newsletters to other clubs in Australia and New Zealand, we are now receiving their emailed newsletters and these are also being forwarded on to our financial members.

Apologies for the delay in sending this edition, unfortunately I had a heart attack and triple bypass in January, but I am now back home and doing well. Mick.

NSSA meeting No. 888, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 17 October 2013

Visitor: Felicity Smith, later admitted as a member – address required please.

NAA Conference 2015, Adelaide: Sub-Committee has recommended possible dates as 3-4 Oct 15, being Labor Day long weekend for SA, NSW, Qld, ACT.

SA Philatelic Conference 12-13 Oct – Torrens Parade Ground Drill Hall: Members who took up tables – Richard, Mark, Kathryn, Barrie were satisfied with event. Paul and Barrie provided exhibits to promote the NSSA with NSSA promotional leaflet being available.

Australia/New Zealand numismatic conference, Wellington NZ 3-6 Jul 14: Peter L. will be attending, others still to decide.

NAA Report: Arrangements for NAAC13 in Brisbane 9-10 November were well in hand with three members, Peter L., David R. and Barrie attending from NSSA. Articles for the NAA Journal 2013 were currently being finalized and the journal would be printed towards the end of the year. Peter L. advised that the current Secretary and Treasurer of the NAA would not be seeking re-election at the next AGM in 2014 and that these positions would become vacant. It would be good if a South Australian could nominate for these positions.



David F. showed a) 1880s white metal IOOR medallion obv. coat-of-arms with wording on surround “The sons of Rechabites drink no wine or strong drink” and rev. with man in bed surrounded by angels with wording “I was sick and ye visited me”, b) 1897 United Temperance Council medallion with red, white & blue ribbon below a crown commemorating 60th year of Queen Victoria’s reign.

Paul J. showed a copy of an ancient Athenian coin found in Israel – tetradrachm.



Richard discussed the recent 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first RAN fleet in Sydney and showed naval medallions: a) 1805 Battle of Trafalgar medal, b) 1855 naval long service medal for service in the Baltic and portrait of young Queen Victoria, c) 1916 Battle of Jutland medal, d) Australian Service Medal awarded to R C Rogers H988, signalman KIA on HMAS Sydney 19 Nov 1941, e) Sinking of Italian cruiser Bartolomeo Colleoni by HMAS Sydney (18 July 1940) medallion awarded to crewman L D Fitzgerald, stoker, who left the Sydney before it was lost.

Kathryn showed two coins with bright blue tinge – a) 1964 Australian penny, b) 1944 Australian shilling.

Felicity showed a) 1953 New Zealand Coronation set, b) pure piece of pink coloured barite (barium sulphate) together with other stones.



Peter L. showed 11 dog registration discs issued in 1890/91, all in various shapes (6 sided, diamond, square etc), with ornate early Australian Coat-of-arms, each with district number and registration number (issued by approx 254 districts). Those discs with hole punched at the bottom indicated that the dog was a female.



Peter H. showed a) two Dutch East India Company coins “VOC – half duit and one duit, b) 1765 silver Louis 15th French ecu

Paul S. showed 3 Coronation medallions a) 1821 silver George IV on obv. and crowning scene on rev. b) 1831 white metal William IV on obv. with Queen Adelaide on rev, c) 1831 brass (16mm) William IV obv. and Queen Adelaide rev.



Mick showed a) samples of copper “one penny” (diam 19mm) and “half penny” (diam 16mm) each with head of George V made by punching, and gave samples to each person present, b) SA Weightwatchers badge in vitreous enamel (Olsons), c) box containing “Genuine Replicas” of medieval English coins – 1066 William I, 1216 Henry III, 1307 Edward II, 1461 groat Edward IV, 1461 noble Edward IV, 1509 groat Henry VIII, 1586 half groat Elizabeth I, d) US Childrens Savings Cards “save your dimes” etc, e) National Bank of Australia Maralinga Branch cheque forms in fugitive ink and gave one to each member present.

Peter F. mentioned that he had recently visited the Banknote Museum at the Reserve Bank of Australia, 65 Martin Place, Sydney and brought back brochures for Mick.

Annual General Meeting and monthly Meeting No. 889 held at the Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 21 November 2013

Treasurer’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 loss of \$323.14 after allocation of Interest \$416- earned on our Fixed Deposit. The Treasurer advised that the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2013 were with the Auditor and would be confirmed at the next meeting. Report received subject to audit.

President’s Award for Best Numismatic Presentation During Year: The President announced that Peter L. was the recipient of the award for his interesting presentation on his involvement with the Kilwa coin expedition to Arnhem Land during the year.

President’s Report and Numismatic Address: The President, Peter F. gave a short Report highlighting the achievements of the Society during the past year, the well attended 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 then presented his Address on “Lord Lister and related numismatics”. (Copy of the Address attached to original Minutes).

Election of Officers for ensuing year: All office bearers and positions remain unchanged. Subscriptions left unchanged at \$20 for Australian members and \$30 for overseas members.

NAA Report: Barrie reported on the 2013 Conference held in Brisbane and advised that he and another member, David R. presented papers to the Conference. He showed the Conference medallion featuring Capt Cook presenting a medal to an Aborigine in 1777 on the obv. with the rev. featuring the Brisbane Conference in



Braille to recognize the late Graeme Stevens, a blind member of the ANS and Queensland Numismatic Society. Only 100 medallions had been struck – one .999 silver (auctioned at the Conference), 20 antique silver for persons presenting papers at the Conference and 79 bronze available for purchase at \$25 each



Richard showed a) 1944 War Savings Certificate one pound, b) 6 x World War 2 Government Petrol Ration Coupons (2 x 1gallon, 1 x 2 gallon, 1 x 5 gallon, 2 x 10 gallon), c) 1560 silver groat Elizabeth I, d) silver Charles I coin, e) silver penny Henry I (1215/72), f) silver penny Edward I (1272/1307).



Frank showed 2013 \$10- .500 silver Kiribati coin by Macquarie Mint for \$A10.



Paul S. showed a) book/catalogue illustrating badges and medallions collected by Ron Harms, b) 1813 silver medallion Rt Hon William Pitt the Younger issued by the Dudley Pitt Club (Dudley is a town in the UK) featuring obv. Head of Pitt, rev. wording “He sav’d his country” within a wreath.



Peter H. showed a) a novelty 1981 US \$1- note featuring the effigy of Hitler, b) a 1972 Olympics Munchen Oktoberfest 0.5 litre beer mug with pewter lid.



Robby showed silver oxidized commemorative Holy Dollar & Dump issued by the ANS commemorating 100 years of the ANS.

Mark showed a countermarked 1840 British India rupee minted in India. The countermark, a plain "PM" in an incuse circle. The PM stands for the Portuguese 'Provincia de Mocambique' or province of Mozambique. It was applied to circulating coinage in Mozambique in the late 19th century according to a decree passed on January 19, 1889 in the name of King Charles I (Carlos I) of Portugal. The intent was to provide a local circulating coinage and to eventually replace these countermarked coins with Portuguese coins as they became available in the provincial treasury. The same countermark was also applied to British-Indian quarter and half rupees, Portuguese-Indian rupees, German East Africa half and full rupees, Mombassan rupees, and to Austrian Maria Teresa talers.

Mick showed his collection of stamp duty cheques and gave to each person present a 100 year-old cheque with one penny embossed duty (to commemorate his 70th birthday due on the day of our next meeting!), and cheques with NSW duty added on the front, and Victorian duty on the back. He commented: Cheques have been a substitute for cash for centuries, and for over 100 years various governments have placed a tax on them in the form of stamp duty. Initially, proof that a one penny stamp duty had been paid was embossed with a punch on the top right of each cheque, often several at a time, which meant that the top cheque had a clear deep sharp impression and the last in the batch much fainter.



This was later changed to one penny, halfpenny, twopence and then threepence. If old forms with a lesser stamp duty embossed were used they had to have an additional amount added in the form of an adhesive stamp. Later, “stamp duty”, with the amount, was printed on cheques instead. Cheques that were sent interstate were also subject to that state’s stamp duty when presented, and this was added in the form of an adhesive stamp either on the front or the back of the cheque. Travellers’ cheques also had duty stamps added when used in other countries.

While the amount of stamp duty added was comparatively trivial and its application somewhat petty and a nuisance, it would have added up to millions of dollars for the respective governments over the many decades it was applied. Thankfully the system was discontinued some years ago, but it has added another interesting dimension to the collecting of cheques.

NSSA meeting No. 890, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 19 December 2013

Visitors: Terry W, who was later admitted as a member with acclamation.

Business Arising from Minutes: *Presentation of 2013 President’s Award:* The President presented the Award (medallion) and cheque for \$50 to Peter L.

Auditor’s Report: The Treasurer advised that the Statement of Receipts and Payments and Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 Sep 2013 had now been audited and the relative accounts were tabled for attachment to the original Minutes of the AGM.

Circular from Roger McNeice re his book on Jubilee of Tasmania and the Cessation of Transportation Medal (Orders for 7 copies were received – payment would be made by the NSSA to McNeice on receipt of the books, with NSSA being reimbursed by those members who had ordered copies.). Letter from Charles Waites, Canada enclosing latest Can \$5- & \$10 polymer notes. Likewise, Don Allen, Canada sent the same two notes together with letter and greetings card. The 2 x Can\$5- & 2 x Can\$10- notes to be donated to the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney to complement the previous Canadian polymer notes sent by Charles and Don and donated by us to the Museum. The Secretary to attend to this matter. Richard suggested that the Society look at increasing subscriptions at the next AGM.

Society Visits or Interest Trips: Neil suggested that the Society look at arranging numismatic trips or visits to the Museum, Art Gallery or other suitable venues with numismatic collections for the benefit of members. Peter L. advised that he would arrange a number of small visits to view the South Australian Collection at the Art Gallery of SA and Barrie advised that he would do the same to visit the Grand Lodge

of South Australia Museum and the Army Museum Keswick where both had medals and numismatic items in their collections.



Richard showed a) 1723 George I silver shilling (The Royal Mint obtained its silver from the South Sea Company, which was chartered in 1711), b) 1787 George III gold guinea coin which had been made into a pendant, c) 1804 George III dollar d) a forgery of a holey dollar and dump.

Frank showed a) 1988 Isle of Man crown cu-ni encased, b) 1982 Ethiopia “World Football” cu-ni encased, c) 1966 Eire silver schilling.



Peter L. showed a) two brass post office letter weights engraved 1oz and 2 oz each with an arrow, obtained from a Hobart Antique Shop that he visited recently, b) carved wooden plaque featuring a map of Australia with a rough coat-of-arms with kangaroo on left and emu on right and engraved “Murchison den 24.8.1941, c) brass name plate “Galliers & Klaerr, St Kilda”.

Neil showed a) 2013 \$1- RAM unc “Premiers AFL Grand Final” on card, b) PNC limited edition (300 only) with 20c coin “Army Chaplains, c) PNC Perth Mint dinosaur series with 3 coloured coins.



David F. showed Queensland Stamp Show 21-22 Sep 2013 medallion awarded to him for “Postcards”. **Paul J.** showed an opalised mollusc that he obtained during a recent trip to the outback.

Kathryn showed a couple of old Royal Australian Mint dies that have had the designs ground off for disposal. A dodecagonal 50c die and a 5c die probably from the late 1970's.



Paul S. showed an agricultural medallion (but this time for “Fishing”!) in silver “Roach Angling Prize won by Mr C Davis at Henley Sweepstakes Aug 29, 1875”, medalist W J Taylor.



Shane showed a) 1887 Queen Victoria silver medallion, b) 1755 silver “Einen Thaler” Munster, Germany with obv. St Paul’s Cathedral.

Mick showed one of his many large albums of cheques, one of 4-5 on U.S. cheques where every town had its own private banks. For all cheques he collected two of each of every different form of cheque possible, unused, uncashed or presented. Different sizes, imprints, stamp duties, states or any other variations. He showed how some cheques were treated, heavily folded and dirty in the 1870s probably by farm labourers, damaged cheques, dud cheques and a cheque of 1937 where the old custom of “sterling” was added to the amount. He presented to each person present (to commemorate his 70th birthday) a collection of 35 different cheques from 13 different banks, and a set of the five different polymer banknote brochures that were issued as each new note was introduced. He also commented on the two of each of the new Canadian polymer \$5 and \$10 notes received from our Canadian members, Don Allen and Charles Waites for forwarding to the Powerhouse Museum, showing the new hologram and Braille technology. Don was of the opinion that Ottawa could have done more with colour on the backs of the notes, which depicted a train on the \$10 and space walking on the \$5. The holograms of the prime ministers and buildings are impressive. Charles mentioned that he had not heard of any negative comments about them – just much the same reaction as previously. See article following.

Meeting Closed at 8.30pm followed by special supper for Christmas.

CANADA WHOLLY ELIMINATES CIRCULATING CENTS WHILE POLYMER DOLLARS INCREASINGLY DOMINATE, By Harold Don Allen.



Canada's venerable if lowly one-cent piece – “penny is slang” – was removed from circulation February 4, 2013, well past the point where its production cost exceeded its nominal monetary value. Banks will be rounding prices to the nearer 5 cents when such sums as 68 cents, \$1.12 and \$378.61 are encountered in transactions. Cents received by banks are not being returned to circulation.

The cent originated as a half-penny-sized Province of Canada coin in 1858, and was struck for that Dominion from 1876. Such cents were struck with annual dates from 1890, with some interesting diversity of design, inscription, detail and metallic content.

Fresh polymer hundreds, fifties and twenties (dollars that is) represent the opposite extreme. The \$100 note, the first such Canadian polymer release, was available from tellers; the \$50 which followed, from tellers or from automatic teller machines. Both these notes wholly replaced their paper forerunners.

With the timely release of two final note denominations, a purple \$10 and a blue \$5 (both in subdued hues), Canada's changeover from paper money to Australian-type polymer plastic, is all but over. The big switch commenced in November 2011 was, I'd say, almost a smooth and as painless as might reasonably have been expected.

Of course, someone stashed a Christmas bonus in polymer hundreds in a tin can near a baseboard heater, and someone else put a wallet on a toaster oven – and tabloid newspapers had a field day.

The popular press, however, may not always be at its best in such monetary-related reporting, I've noted. One “free” paper in the Montreal area front-paged “the \$10 displaying a freight train snaking through the Rocky Mountains” while depicting VIA Rail diesel 6403, hauling a great “consist” of solely passenger cars on one of Canada's most prestigious luxury runs.

The five Bank of Canada denominations to be available as polymer notes, at present and into the foreseeable future are \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10 and \$5. Four notes depict on face high-profile former Prime Ministers, R. Borden (\$100), W. L.M. King (\$50), J. A. Macdonald (\$10) and W. Laurier (\$5). The green \$20 depicts Elizabeth II, a recent likeness, as Queen of Canada, a constitutional monarchy.

Polymer note reverses reflect areas of Canadian achievement, or past and present effort and commitment; the brown \$100 medical research, the red \$540 northern life and development, the green \$20 military heritage (the Ving Memorial), the purple \$10 transportation and the blue \$5 the space frontier.

The five notes can be observed to abbreviate Canada's traditional eight-note sequence: \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 and \$1,000. Lower-value \$1 and \$2 notes already had been succeeded by large and hefty base-metal coins – the “loonie” and “townie” respectively, in common parlance.

Introduced in 1870 to alleviate a silver-coin shortage, a 25-cent Federal paper denomination, a legal-tender “shinplaster”, survived through three useful and well-liked releases, issue-dated 1870, 1900 and 1923, prior to elimination on inauguration of Bank of Canada currency in 1935.

Canada's two most recent releases of polymer folding money, the \$10 and \$5 bills, depict the better-known and generally most recognizable of the modern nation's early leaders. These were Sir John Alexander Macdonald, the first Prime Minister (1867-1873 and 1878-1891, I see by the note inscription) and Sir Wilfrid Laurier (1896-1911).

A word of caution; some cataloguings that a collector might consult in working up display captions may misspell “Macdonald” as “MacDonald” or “Wilfrid” as “Wilfred”. Exhibit judges and exhibitors should be alert to this potential difficulty.

As might be expected, Canada's polymer notes come with all the “bells and whistles” currently to be found on world “plastic” money: the see-through “frosted windows” (maple leaf shape), the associated metallic portrait, the “smooth, unique texture” of the note and in our case, touches of Parliament Hill architecture: the face (portrait) on the front, and a thematic vignette on the note reverse.

Conspicuous by their absence on newest notes are Canada's heraldic armoreal bearings, traditionally featured on decades and more of government paper releases, bonds and such, and from 1937, Canada's 50-cent coin. I queried the absence during a telephone contact, but no useful information has been forthcoming.

Canada's polymer I sense is of real or potential interest to the United States collector or “world” enthusiast. One reason is that the Canadian dollar long has been in the same “ball park” as the United States – or, say the Australian or New Zealand unit, with fluctuations in both directions, of course. Another reason is that themes and images on all five note reverses reflect aspirations and achievements wholly understandable to viewer or collector in each such land.

The Canadian central bank decision to commit to polymer currency, which reversed an earlier decision not to, was provoked by paper counterfeiting having at one stage been less under control. As well, there was the additional observation that polymer notes, while initially more costly to produce, offer among other advantages a distinctly longer interval in circulation.

Canada's new notes do incorporate or suggest interesting, frequently challenging, varieties. The set having been released over a two year-plus interval, signature varieties might reasonably have by now been expected. However, both signing officers of two years ago have moved on. Bank of Canada governor Dr. Mark Carney has taken on similar work as Governor of the historic Bank of England. Admittedly, not every Canadian collector looks to signature varieties on \$100 and \$50 bills, but Canadian hobbyists have shown intense interests in plate or position numbers and plating and in several classes of test notes or replacement notes. Canadian Paper Money Society newsletters and regular priced catalogues will be thorough in documenting principal findings.

So, I give you the VIA Rail diesel, at \$10, and the Canadarm robotic arm and such, at \$5, and you now have the complete overview of chosen Canadian hopes and successes across five polymer note denominations.



END

Thanks to our Canadian members Harold Don Allen and Charles Waites, two of each of all the new Canadian polymer denominations have been sent to the society for members to see and then donate to the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.

Article typed and notes photographed by Mick as they are scan-proof. Notes also have the denominations embossed in Braille. Some notes showed warping of the hologram areas while others did not. I thought the notes designs were a bit bland, but did like the colorful holograms (Ed.).