



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 110 – September 2014.

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 currently \$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. Check with Mick or Barrie before sending, in case there is a sub. change at the AGM in November.**

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.

November meeting is the A.G.M. Please forward nominations for office bearers to the Secretary ASAP. See also, above.

NSSA Meeting No. 897, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 17 July 2014.

NAA Conference Adelaide 2015: The Secretary advised that planning for the Conference to be held over the weekend 24-25 October 2015 at the Naval Military & Air Force Club, 111 Hutt Street, Adelaide was proceeding.

From the suggested designs for the reverse of the **NAA Conference medallion:**

1. Include gold-plated image of 1852 Adelaide Assay Office gold ingot held in Art Gallery of SA; 2. Include image of gambling chit donated by German POW Hans Piltz in 1914, held by Art Gallery of SA; 3. Image of clipper “City of Adelaide” - bound for SA in 1864, now being restored at Port Adelaide; 4. Include image of 1852 Adelaide Pound, it was moved and carried that the image of the clipper “**City of Adelaide**” be recommended to the NAA as the design for the rev. of the NAAC15 medallion.

Field Visit to Freemasons Grand Lodge Museum: The Secretary has arranged with the Freemasons for the visit to be conducted on the afternoon of Friday 10 October 2014. (This was later cancelled). *Future Field Visits:* A date for the visit to the Army Museum, Keswick will be arranged in March/April next year.

Australia/New Zealand Numismatic Conference, Wellington NZ 3-6 July 2014: Peter L. reported on the success of the New Zealand conference – over 60 persons (24 Australians) attended, including the head of the British Museum coin department and a Canadian speaker. The conference was sponsored by NZ Telecom.

Life Membership: The Secretary advised that he had formally presented the Life Membership certificate and medallion to Norman R. at his home.



1. Plate from Hildesheim Treasure - 25cm featuring Minerva/Athena
2. Tankard, Germany c1750 - set with thalers.



3. Jean-Pierre Hooff, Adelaide 1974 - Tumblers from melted down flatware, the spoon from coins.

Guest Speaker: Richard P. was welcomed by the President and invited to address the meeting on the topic “Crossover of silverware and currency”. He introduced his talk by discussing the lasting qualities of silver and how gold and silver hoards have provided a fascinating insight into the times and lives of peoples since the 1st Century AD. He talked about the Hildesheim Treasure – about 70 pieces of tableware from the Northern frontier of the Roman Empire, showing a photo of a magnificent dish 25cm diam, 2.388kg featuring the applied figure of Minerva/Athena – and the Snettisham jeweller’s hoard from Norfolk containing scrap gold and silver, including coins, both from 1C AD. He discussed how over the centuries silver vessels had been cut and clipped to provide coinage and payment to warlords and armies and how, in 1238, the Standard of English silver plate was required to be that of the coinage i.e. .925 parts silver – the Sterling Standard. He discussed how the Marks of the Leopard’s Head in 1300 and that of the Lion Passant in 1544 were applied to show that the Sterling Standard of plate was being maintained and how, in 1642, with the onset of the English Civil War, both sides commandeered silver and gold from their “supporters” to help pay their armies.

During the Civil War sieges of Scarborough, Newark and other cities and castles, use had to be made of obsidional coinage or siege pieces – impromptu coins made on the spot by cutting up or melting down silverware to standard weights. (Some of the most collectible siege pieces still retain the decoration or markings of the original plate.) Then, in 1653, because of the bewildering variety of coinage swirling through English trade, the Royal Mint assessed the various currencies against the Sterling standard so that users could know what the money was actually worth. He mentioned that many persons collected silver tableware and furniture to display their wealth and position, for example, in 1679 a visitor to Louis XIV’s palace at Versailles recorded 167 items of silver furniture in the state apartments – vases, tables, candelabra, throne etc!

In England in the 1690s coin clipping was rife and to overcome this in 1695 the Great Recoinage Act was enforced which enabled the public for 12 months to exchange their old hammered coins for new milled coins. To stop silversmiths putting the new coins into the crucible, an Act was passed to raise the legal standard of “worked” silver from .925 Sterling to a new Britannia Standard of .9584 and new stamping requirements were made for plate and silverware. He discussed how silversmiths in the 1700s and 1800s were extremely busy and mentioned in the year 1703, alone, London hallmarked 600,000ozs (about 18 2/3 tonnes) of silverwork and he showed many photos of silver containers, tankards, plate, coffee pots, tea sets etc.

He mentioned the severe penalties for melting down coinage which was included in the Colony of NSW Proclamation relating to the release of the holey dollar, and the fact that jewelers and silversmiths had to enter into a 100 pound bond not to do so. In America, the silversmith, Jabez Gorham, who started as a provincial spoon maker in 1831 became one of the largest producers of silverwork in the world. A writer describing Gorham’s workshop recorded, “Mr Gorham melted all the silver in the morning – mostly half dollars”, another indication of the effect silversmiths had on the currencies of their country. In 1920, in the aftermath of WW1, Britain brought in the Gold and Silver Export Control Act, making it unlawful to melt, break down or use otherwise than as currency, any gold or silver coin current anywhere in the world.

Britain had already abandoned its copper coinage in 1860, adopting bronze instead due to shortage of copper after the abandonment of the SA copper mines by miners heading for the goldfields, and now in 1920 debased its silver coins above 6d to .500 standard. Similarly, in 1946, following WW2, Australia debased its silver coinage to .500 standard and then in 1947, because of wartime debts, Britain entirely replaced its silver coinage with base metal coins. In 1964 Australian silver coin production ceased ahead of decimalization and its last silver currency coin was the 1966 50cent piece of .800 standard, replaced by cupro-nickel one year later because the metal value exceeded its face value.

He completed his address by mentioning that the gifted Adelaide silversmith Jean-Pierre Hooft made a tumbler set in 1974 in the traditional manner – the cups were from melted down flatware, the spoon from coins... The great exchange continues... In appreciation of Richard's fine address, the President presented him with a bottle of wine with acclamation from all present.

Numismatics:

Dennis showed 2 medalets issued by The **Bank of Adelaide** as tokens for the Royal Adelaide Show in 1974, one silver plated, the other copper, encased together (floating) in a hard clear plastic prism.



Richard showed a) silver 1900 Queen's **South African** Medal with red, blue, yellow, blue, red ribbon on which were affixed 3 bars: Transvaal, Orange Free State, Cape Colony, edge engraved: "1273 Pte WA Collins Victorian MR"; b) silver 1877 India One Rupee obv. young Queen Victoria "Victoria Empress".



Paul S. showed a **silver teaspoon** (baby or for mustard) with hallmarks (approx 1833) Mick advised his 2 latest books on World **cheques** (220 pages) and **U.S.** cheques (166 pages) were with the printers.

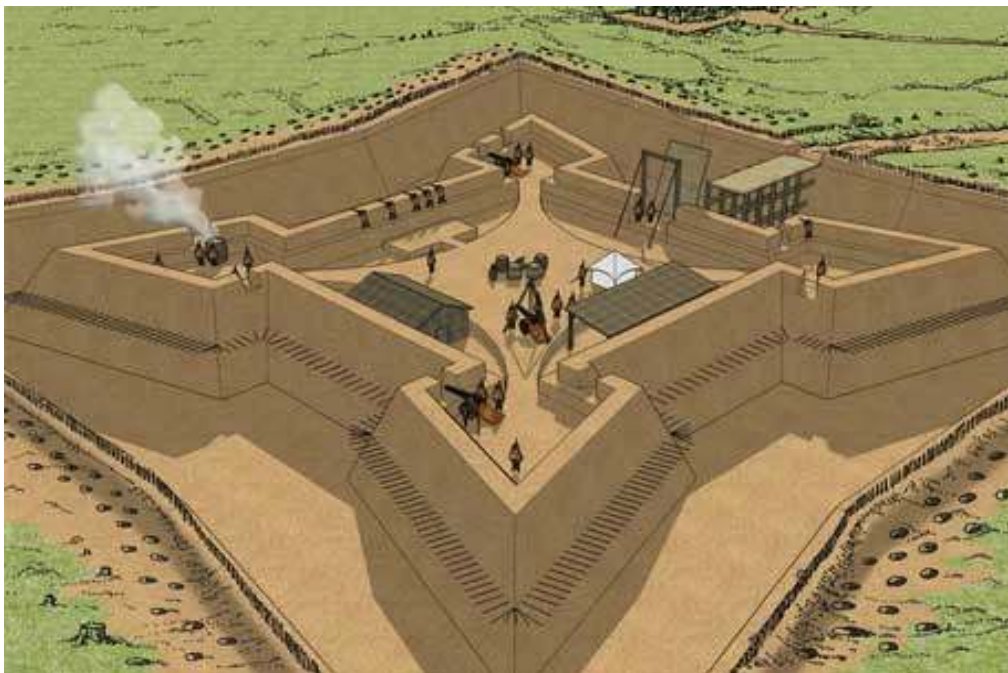
Trevor W. showed 6 **Chinese** coins featuring Chinese Generals from period of Mao's revolution in folder, silver 37mm.

Paul J. showed a) 1646 silver **Siege money** Newark Siege (cut from silver plate, as mentioned in Richard Phillip’s earlier talk) obv. crown and “CR” (Charles I) and “XII” (12 pence or shilling), rev. “OBS” (obsessum Latin for besieged) and “Newark” (Newark-on-Trent) and date “1646”; b) 1652 silver half-crown obv. Cross of St George inside wreath with wording “The Commonwealth of England”, rev. two conjoined shields the one on left bearing the Cross of St George, the one on the right the Irish Harp, with wording around “II VI God with VS 1652”; c) 1653 silver shilling obv. “The Commonwealth of England” surrounding Cross of St George, rev. two conjoined shields (Cross of St Geo and Irish Harp) with wording around “XII God with VS 1653”



Silver siege money from the English civil war;
From England, Carlisle (AD 1645), Scarborough (1645), Newark (1646), and Pontefract (1648)

Siege of Newark, a Royalist stronghold during the English Civil War





The sieges of Scarborough, Oxford, Chester, Reading, Carlisle, Gloucester, Hull, Newark and Pontefract occurred during the civil war. Paul showed;



Silver Newark Shilling 1646 Siege

Obverse

Large central crown, initials CR either side of the crown and denomination (12 pence or shilling) in Roman numerals below. The reference to Charles the First shows that the city was held by royalists in the English civil war.

Reverse

NEWARK in middle, with OBS above, and date below

NOTE: OBS is short for obsessum or 'besieged' in Latin. Newark is short for Newark-on-Trent

Newark was a vital nexus of Royalist control in the east Midlands, and, along with Oxford, represented dual salient into Parliamentary-controlled territory in eastern England during the early phase of the Civil War, posing a threat to London. It was the target of sieges in 1642/3, 1643/4 and, finally, 1645/6, when the famous siege coinage was struck. Newark held out against the Parliamentary armies until May 1646, when Charles surrendered himself at Southwell.



Silver English Commonwealth Half Crown 1652

Obverse Description: Within a wreath of palm and laurel a shield bearing the cross of St. George; around, (mm. sun) THE COMMONWEALTH OF ENGLAND

Reverse Description: Within a beaded inner circle two conjoined shields, the one on the left bearing the cross of St. George and on the right, the Irish Harp; above, the denomination in shillings, .II.VI.; around, GOD WITH VS 1652 (end of date double struck)



Silver shilling English Commonwealth 1653

Obverse Description: Within a wreath of palm and laurel a shield bearing the cross of St. George; around, (mm. sun) COMMONWEALTH OF ENGLAND

Reverse Description: Within a beaded inner circle two conjoined shields, the one on the left bearing the cross of St. George and on the right, the Irish Harp; above, the denomination in pence, XII; around, GOD WITH VS 1653

NSSA meeting No. 898, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 21 August 2014

NAA Conference Adelaide 2015: The Secretary presented a written proposal from the sub-committee outlining the arrangements and costs relating to the Conference to be held over the weekend 24-25 October 2015 at the Naval Military & Air Force Club, 111 Hutt Street, Adelaide. It was suggested that, in order to keep the costs in line with those of previous conferences, the NSSA contributes \$40- per head so that the cost per delegate to attend the 2 days conference and Friday night welcome would be \$75- (actual cost by the Club is \$101-) and for the Sat night dinner \$60- (actual cost \$74-). After considerable discussion and the fact that the Conference was an important one-off event for the NSSA, the motion that the NSSA subsidises each delegate's cost by \$40- per head was carried. It was also suggested that a Bourse be conducted amongst delegates on the Friday afternoon between 4.00pm and 5.45pm at the Club before the Welcome function on the Friday evening. This was agreed to and arrangements will be put in hand to conduct such an activity.

Email from **Frank** thanking members for their good wishes and continued support and commenting on the enjoyment he gets from receiving the Minutes and Newsletter on a regular basis.

Numismatics:

Mick advised that he was producing a new book on **Hay Internment Camp** Notes and **War Savings Certificates** and showed computer images of some of the contents. See page 14.

Neil showed a) the latest 2014 uncirculated **RAM issues** – set of 6 “Bright Bugs” series, colour-printed coins, each on a card, featuring Ulysses butterfly, blow-fly, Cuckoo wasp, Stag beetle, Red Bull ant, Leichardt's grasshopper; b) 2014 colour-printed 50cents coin on card for 50th Anniversary of Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) [Note – these colour-printed coins will not be released into circulation, but a non-coloured version of the 50 cents AIATSIS coin will be issued into circulation] c) two variety/error coins – a 1997 Sir Charles Kingsford Smith \$1- with a planchet flaw through AUSTRALIA on the obv. and a 2010 \$1- with 2 cuds on the rev. - ‘rabbit ear’ and ‘spew roo’.



Paul S. showed a) bronze medallion 1838 Coronation of **Queen Victoria** on obv, and coronation ceremony image on rev. (36mm); b) bronze medallion 1883-84 obv. young Queen Victoria head “Victoria Empress” and rev. “Calcutta International Exhibition” with 6 separate figures and a kangaroo depicted (74mm); c) white metal 1800

“Uncharitable Monopolizer” featuring “The **Charitable Hand** – Well Done” and “Come all ye Distressed” with two large and three small hands reaching out to give/receive coins.



Mark showed 3 Australian coin **planchets** – a) Coin 1 – Australia 1975 20c with curved clipped planchet; b) Coin 2 – Australia 1976 1c with double clipped planchet; c) Coin 3 – Australia 1966 10c with incomplete planchet.



Paul J. showed a) Gold **Guinea 1679** ENGLAND Charles II - a little weakly struck in the centre, as usual with this early period of machine made coinage. The obverse and reverse of this coin were designed by John Roettier (1631–c. 1700). The obverse showed a fine right-facing bust of the king wearing a laurel wreath (amended several times during the reign), surrounded by the legend CAROLVS II DEI GRATIA ("Charles II by the grace of God"), while the reverse showed four crowned cruciform shields bearing the arms of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, between which were four sceptres, and in the centre were four interlinked "C"s, surrounded by the inscription MAG BR FRA ET HIB REX date ("Of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King"). To avoid confusion with gilded silver coins, the edge was milled to deter clipping or filing (and to distinguish it from the silver half-crown which had edge lettering). Until 1669 the milling was perpendicular to the edge, giving vertical grooves, while from 1670 the milling was diagonal to the edge;



b) Silver Shilling - CHARLES II second bust. Obv.

Laureate and draped bust of Charles II, facing right. around, CAROLVS . II . DEI . GRATIA ("Charles II by the grace of God"). Rev.

Four crowned shields, bearing the arms of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, formed to make a cross with the Star of the Garter at the centre; in the angles, two interlinked Cs; around, MAG BR FRA ET HIB REX 1672, ("Of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King") the date being divided by the crown above the English arms; c) Silver two penny 1660-85 ENGLAND Charles II. 15mm diameter.

THE RESTORATION:

Parliament moved to restore Charles II to the throne of England. The story of Charles II's reign is one of falling into crisis and then belated and sudden escape from it. Great fire of London, the plague, three naval wars against the Dutch, the first a victory and the next two were losses. Charles had no legitimate children, but acknowledged a dozen by seven mistresses. Like his father Charles soon came into conflict with Parliament by issuing the Royal Declaration of Indulgence, in which he wanted to suspend all penal laws against Catholics and other religious dissenters but he backed down. This is an example of his reign, he commented.



Richard showed 4 silver **Indian** coins a) rev. East India 1 rupee 1840, obv. young Queen Victoria; b) rev. One Rupee India 1877, obv. Victoria Empress; c) rev. 1906 One Rupee India, obv. Edward VII – King & Emperor; d) rev. One Rupee India 1944, obv. George VI King Emperor; then showed e) 1953 Southern Rhodesia silver crown obv. Queen Elizabeth 2nd, rev. Cecil Rhodes, f) 1788 George III gold guinea.



Peter F. showed “Evening World” **Wolligog Club** copper medal with blue ribbon and 4 stars affixed to ribbon (Bristol, 29mm)

NSSA meeting No. 899, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 18 September 2014

Numismatics:

Neil showed a) a set of uncirculated (last of pre-decimal coins) issued by **Sherwood** incl 1963 sixpence, shilling, florin and 1964 halfpenny, penny and threepence; b) a souvenir wallet from BP with examples of the same dated pre-decimal coins; c) a souvenir wallet from BP with examples of the first of the decimal coins issued in 1966 – set of 1 cent, 2 cent, 5 cent, 10 cent, 20 cent and 50 cent; d) a set sealed in plastic of the same six coins issued in 1966.



Paul J. showed a) **Gold Guinea James II** (a little weakly struck in the centre, as usual with this early period of machine made coinage);

b) **Gun Money** Crown IRELAND James II Reverse shows King on Horseback;
c) James II. **1691 Limerick Besieged**. Halfpenny, 25mm, struck over a large gunmoney shilling whilst James was besieged at Limerick. Issued after James II landed in Ireland in a bid to recapture his throne, this base metal coinage was intended to be temporary, and replaced once he succeeded in his bid, which of course, did not happen.

*The main **Jacobite** army was smashed at the Battle of Aughrim in July 1691, losing 4,000 men killed, including their commander, the Marquis de St Ruth and thousands more taken prisoner and deserted. After this point, Patrick Sarsfield ousted the Chevalier de Tessé and the Marquis d'Usson, the French commanders in Limerick, and began negotiations to surrender. He and Ginkel concluded a treaty that promised to: respect the civilian population of Limerick; tolerate the Catholic religion in Ireland; guarantee against the confiscation of Catholic-owned land; and allow Sarsfield and the fully armed Jacobite army to withdraw to France. Limerick capitulated under these favorable terms in October 1691. Sarsfield left Ireland with 10,000 soldiers and 4,000 women and children to enter the French service. This journey has become known as the Flight of the Wild Geese. The terms of the Treaty of Limerick were not honored by the 1697 Protestant dominated Irish Parliament and Catholics were subjected to the continuous oppression of the Penal Laws which discriminated against them right up to the early 19th century.;*

d) Token dated 1788. Obverse: Bust of William III to right with legend: “GULIELMUS III DEI GRATIA 1688”. Reverse: Legend on three lines within wreath and around periphery: “GLORIOUS REVOLUTION JUBILEE NOV 4TH 1788” Scalloped edge. *Illustrated above.*



Richard showed

- a) 1707 bronze **Queen Anne** medallion with both English and Scottish crests on rev. (46mm);
- b) enameled reverse of George III silver crown with horse and St George in white enamel – a pin attached to obverse for wearing as a brooch;



- c) a copy of an original 19C electrotype of **Arethusa** (obv) and 4 horses (rev);



- d) a copy of an original **Cilicia** coin struck c350BC;
- e) a forgery of 1813 **Holy Dollar** struck on 1796 Spanish coin;
- f) a forgery of 1813 15 pence dump; g) a copy of Padua coin of **Tiberius Sestertius**.



Paul S. showed a) enameled **1834 half crown** William IV made into a brooch; b) enameled 1925 George V farthing obv red background, rev curved with ship plasticised and ring fitting at top; c) both sides coloured 1932 George V English florin as pendant with epoxy covering to protect; d) **book “A Jam Tin of Mosquitoes”** by June Haggett and Monty Smith – *a biological reference to the men and women of South Australia who volunteered to serve in the South Africa Boer War 1899-1902.*

Mark showed 3 **counterstamped coins** –



a) Great Britain 1797 cartwheel penny counterstamped with a large crowned JM;



b) 1797 penny, this time counterstamped with W. FENTON FULFORD



c) 1820 shilling with the letters IS stamped in the obverse.

It's likely that each of these is a merchant counterstamp, who stamped coins for advertising purposes. Sometimes such coins were stamped with political slogans or with initials or the name of a person as a "love token".

Barrie showed his vitreous enamel **Vietnam Veterans Assoc of Australia** cuff-links and discussed the methods and steps taken to produce vitreous enamel badges by The Adelaide Mint.



Peter F. showed a) a Roman coin, probably Emperor **Diocletian**; b) Queen Victoria Jubilee Port Adelaide Corporation medallion “Sydney **Malin Mayor**”



Mick’s talk in August, his new book “**Hay Internment Camp Notes and War Savings Certificates**” replaces Max Bulluss’s book of 20 years ago, incorporating information from his book and bringing up to date the list of known Hay Camp notes. It has 110 pages and sells for \$30 plus \$4 post. Contact details on page 1.

Many thanks to Mark for photographing items at the September meeting in the absence of Mick overseas in the U.K. and to the members who went to the trouble of sharing their topic with others, supplying data to the secretary and in some cases providing their own excellent images.