



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 111 – December 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 now \$30 in Australia and overseas. They can also be paid by **EFT** to 015 590 4981 20308 (ANZ) stating surname and/or postcode. ***Subs need to be renewed now 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.

Subs have not been increased for over 20 years and outgoings are exceeding income
\$30 subscriptions now due, please send to Mick, as above or by EFT and advise.

Meeting No. 900, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 16 October 2014

Field Visit to Freemasons Grand Lodge Museum: This was cancelled due to a Grand Lodge major event the next day. The Secretary has now arranged with the Freemasons for the visit to be conducted on the afternoon of Friday 12 December 2014 – numbers attending to be advised next meeting. *Future Field Visits:* A date for the visit to the Army Museum, Keswick will be arranged in March/April next year.

NAA Report: A new Secretary and Treasurer (husband and wife) from WA had been appointed. The recently revamped **website** (prepared by our member Mark) was averaging 16 hits per day. The Editor of the Journal was waiting on one more articles to be received before completion of the next Journal. **Sponsorship** funding for the Journal was approved: gold \$2000-Silver \$1000-, bronze \$500-.



David showed 3 items received from his recent visit as a commissioner to the **World Stamp Exhibition Philakorea 2014** – a) large silver-plated medallion with gold-plated stamp image affixed thereon, obv. and on rev. wording and logo of exhibition comprising heart/stamp/dove image and embossed “Commissioner David.....; b) cupro-nickel medallion struck by Korea Minting, Security Printing & ID Card Operating Corp (KOMSCO) featuring obv. dove and stamp and rev. two mascots named Phiko, (representing **Philately & Korea**) and Harmo (Harmony) - *the goal for Phiko was to go on a journey in search of a new stamp and for Harmo to find the most beautiful stamp in the world and together they set off to experience stamps from around the world at Philakorea 2014*; c) cupro-nickel medallion “The 60th Anniv. of the **Korean War Armistice**” featuring the Australian Flag obv. (40mm)

Peter L. spoke about his recent visit to the **Athens Numismatic Museum**.

Kathryn showed a **framed unc \$1- Aust note**, being one of 1000 consolation prizes awarded from competition in **PIX Magazine** to design the Australian note in Sep 1965 (details of this are included in M Vort-Ronald’s book on Australian notes). She also advised that a new circ \$2- coin was being produced by RAM to commemorate the departure of the first **AIF Troops** from Albany on 1 Nov 1915.



Peter H. showed a souvenir coin set **Confederate States** of America (CSA) purchased at **Alcatraz** during his recent visit to the USA a) 1861 5 dollars CSA, b) 1861 20 dollars CSA, c) 1861 half-dollar CSA and d) 1861 one cent CSA. *Images page 2.*



Richard showed a) **1703** silver medallion obv. **Queen Anne** and on rev. the Queen on her throne with subjects bowing before her; b) 1897 boxed gold medallion for 60th Anniversary **Queen Victoria** (old Queen obv.) with young Queen and 1837 on rev.(25mm); c) silver **Canadian** medal “**Voluntary Service 1939-1945**” featuring servicemen and women marching, with ribbon – green, red, blue, red, green.



Paul S. showed **1893** copper medallion Visit of **Christian IX** of Denmark and Queen Louise to London with King & Queen on obv. and Britannia on rev. (75mm) – one of 26 City of London series medallions.



Mick spoke about his recent visit to **Ludlow in Shropshire** UK with his daughter Helen, to follow up looking for the original plaster cast for the **Boer War Memorial** in Adelaide, which his wife Lyn had read about in a Ludlow tourism brochure in 2004 when they last visited. It was said to be in the Ludlow town hall. Their interest was sparked by the issue of a medallion, not long before their visit, by The Adelaide Mint for the **Waler Society**, which featured the Boer War memorial outside Government House in Adelaide.

On his 2014 visit it was found that the Ludlow town hall had been demolished in 1986, the cast was damaged during its removal and later disintegrated due to careless storage. All that remains is the **plaster head of the horse**, which is now displayed in the foyer of Ludlow College's Palmers Hall.

Mick examined records, scrapbooks and photographs in the Ludlow museum and contacted Donald Pedlar in Adelaide for permission to use information from his letter to the museum 30 years ago. As a result, a comprehensive article will appear in CAB magazine in their December issue and possibly next year in Coin News in the U.K. Mick showed a computer preview of the proposed article to those present.



Barrie showed the steps taken by The Adelaide Mint to produce the 3 “**Ship Series**” PNCs for the recent **Stampex 14**, featuring separate medallions of ships ‘Bound for South Australia’ – “City of Adelaide”, “Aurora” and “Gothic” – and exhibited the templates, sample leads, dies and other items relating to the production of the three finished PNCs.



At the conclusion of his presentation, David, representing Stampex 14, presented Barrie with one of each of the three PNCs, of which only 150 of each had been produced and numbered accordingly.



Peter F. showed a) gilt silver medallion engraved on surround “From his Fellow Employees of **Geo P. Harris Scarfe & Co**” and in centre “Jas T. Williams after 21

years fellowship 6th April 1895”; b) brass case (48mm) engraved “The within medal was gained by **James Gould** at the **Marnoch Competition 1843**” and the medal encased inside that case (45mm) on the obv. and hallmarked, a single furrow plough, and on the rev. “Given by The Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland to James Gould 1843”; c) silver case for watch engraved on front “Adelaide Exhibition Cup 1887”.

Annual General Meeting and Monthly Meeting No. 901, Royal Society Room, Adelaide 20 November 2014

Letter received from a gentleman in Hong Kong, applying to join the NSSA.

Treasurer’s and Auditor’s Reports for Past Year: The Treasurer presented the audited Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2014, which recorded a Loss of \$764.13 after allocation of interest \$482.64- earned on our Fixed Deposit and transfer of \$500- from our Fixed Deposit to the Cheque A/c. (Treasurer’s Report attached to original Minutes)

President’s Award for Best Numismatic Presentation During Year: The President announced **Neil** was the recipient of the award for his many interesting presentations on each of the current issues by the Royal Australian Mint 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, particularly the Treasurer and the Secretary. He then presented his Address on “Numismatics in **Press Clippings**”. (Copy of the Address attached to original Minutes).

Election of Officers for ensuing year: The following officers were duly nominated and elected:

President: Richard

Secretary: Barrie

Treasurer: Mick

Vice-Presidents: Paul S. and Kathryn

Councillors: Peter L. Paul J. Peter H., Coral, Ray H., Mark, Denis, Mick, Peter F. David and Neil.

NAA Representative: Peter L. Public Officer: Barrie, Editor of Newsletter and Occasional Journal: Mick Vort-Ronald, Auditor: Paul J.

Determination of **Subscriptions** for ensuing year: It was moved that subscriptions be increased by \$10 to **\$30** for Australian members and remain at \$30 for overseas members. Carried. Subs had been \$20 for decades.

NAA Report: Peter L. reported that six members of the NSSA had been invited to present papers at the NAA 2015 Conference and he asked that they advise Walter Bloom ASAP whether they intended to accept the invitation so that the NAA could finalise these arrangements.

Neil showed the latest uncirculated **RAM issues** for 2014 a) 50cents cu-ni commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS); b) \$1- al-bronze coin on card for “Clever Australia, a nation of great inventors” featuring crystallography, the pacemaker, penicillin, IVF embryo freezing, spray-on-skin for burns victims; c) \$2- colour printed al-bronze Remembrance Day PNC with 70c stamp; d) \$2- colour printed al-bronze coin with C Mintmark on a folded card; e) 6 Australia at War 50c cu-ni coins on cards – Australian Flying Corps, Gallipoli Campaign, The Western Front (coloured poppy), Battle of Cocos, German New Guinea, Boer War (coloured colour patches).



Peter H. showed 23 coloured badges from 5AD Dog House Club, 1952-1974.



Peter L. showed: a bronze medallion “Richard Stawell Oration Medal” presented to “Governor-General Rt Hon Sir Paul Hasluck GCMG, GCVO, KStJ” (50mm); b) Roche Commemorative Medallion issued April 1974 to “Roche Research Institute of Marine Pharmacology, Sydney” (70mm)



Paul J. showed Two **Groats** – English and Scottish – a) Silver Groat. **Edward III** (MM Cross), 1327. b) Silver Groat, SCOTLAND. **David II**. 1329-1371. The **Groat** is the traditional name of a long-defunct English silver coin worth four English pennies, and also a **Scottish** coin originally worth four pence, with later issues being valued at eight pence and another at one shilling. These coins were from both sides during The **Battle of Neville’s Cross in 1346**:

Though the Scots were in what is considered a rather poor position with various obstacles between them and the English position, they were enticed to attack by the English archers who advanced and then fell back. The Scots' poor position resulted in their formations falling apart as they advanced. When it became clear that the battle was going in favor of the English, Robert Stewart, the future King of the Scots, and the Earl of March fled the battle, abandoning David II's battalion to face the English alone. David II was captured under a bridge after he fled the field. David II was ransomed for 100,000 marks, possibly worth tens of millions in today's currency. 10 years later, in 1356 The Black Prince at the battle of Poitiers captured King John of France and his ransom was three million gold crowns and he joined David II as a prisoner in London. Many lords of Scotland and France were either ransomed or killed in these battles.

Kathryn showed two 2014 \$1- ANZAC coins featuring "100years of ANZAC - The Spirit Lives" with one of the coins counterstamped "A" Albany purchased at the Commemoration ceremony at Albany WA on 1 November 2014.



Paul S. showed a) Louis XIV (1702-1713 **Wars of Spanish Succession**) medallion obv. PULSIS AD VARUN HOSTIBUS" and rev. "Toulon Relieved 20 August 1707"; b) a lead die-hub mirror-image impression obv. of Louis XIV.



Mick showed computer images of Australian Treasury issue **one pound notes** with Collins-Allen and Cerutti-Collins signatures from around 1915-1920. Regular notes used **figure ones** with a flat top, but it appears that some of the regular figure ones in the numbering cylinders needed replacing and the same type of numerals were no longer available. Substitute numerals with a figure 1 could be seen with one to three replaced digits on either of the left or right side serial numbers. Mick copied illustrations from around 400 auction catalogues and only found about 25 such notes, though it is likely that there are more as yet unrecorded or unrecognised. An article has been sent to CAB magazine for February 2015.

Monthly Meeting No. 902, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 18 December 2014

NAA Conference Adelaide 23-25 October 2015: Field Visit to Freemasons Grand Lodge Museum: The President thanked the Secretary for arranging a most informative and interesting visit to the Freemasons Museum on Friday 12 December 2014 with 10 persons attending. *Future Field Visits:* A date for the visit to the Army Museum, Keswick will be arranged in March/April next year.

It was advised that member Michael H. had a complete set of **ACR magazines** from 1964 to the mid 1990s that he wished to dispose of – Kathryn expressed interest. Peter L. advised that he had a quantity of old **NSSA records** in cabinets that needed to be sorted out. Agreed that they be handed to Secretary for assessment, recording and storage as considered necessary.

David showed a postcard with a photo of the **Boer War memorial** “horse and rider” outside the foundry in the UK where it had been made before it was dispatched to South Australia for erection outside Government House, Adelaide.



Peter F. showed a **copy of an Adelaide Assay Office ingot** and linking RAM commemorative coin with ingot superimposed on rev. for which he paid \$5- for both at a recent Adelaide sale. Possibly produced in China; no visible “Copy” shown on either item.

Neil mentioned that **RAM** has just released a \$1- commemorative coin featuring Hawthorn as 2014 premiers of the AFL. General discussion ensued concerning the **proliferation of commemorative issues** by RAM in recent years resulting in diminution in values and eroding the importance of numismatics in the eyes of the Australian public. The Secretary spoke at length on this trend in numismatics around the world, with mints and distributors only interested in issuing commemorative coins with as many different themes as possible so as to enable them to maximize their own profits. The President commented that **RAM this year had made a loss** despite its increase in producing additional new commemorative issues.



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Paul S. showed a) 1939 copper token (tag) “Department of Loco and Carriage” with hole at top; b) aluminium token obv. “West Australian Cricket Association” and rev. “6d”, (26mm); c) gilt medallion obv. “Tasmanian Exhibition 1891-2”, and rev. “Exhibition Souvenir” with coat-of-arms. (19mm). *Images page 8.*



Mick titled his talk “THE UPS AND DOWNS OF NUMBER ONE” as follows: On the 1st May 1913 a special ceremony was held at the King’s Warehouse near Melbourne to launch Australia’s **new ten shilling note**. The Governor-General’s 5 year old daughter Anna **Judith Denman** (known as (Judith) was given the honour of numbering the first note, M 000001. Her father, Lord Denman, numbered the second and his son, Thomas, the third. All three notes were later donated to the Denmans.

Sir Rider Haggard numbered the fourth, but he was not destined to receive it, as numbers 4 and 5 were presented to the Prime Minister Andrew Fisher, who was the main instigator of the new series of Australian banknotes. Number 6 onwards were supplied to parliamentarians and other prominent people who had to pay for them. Allocation of numbers was determined by ballot and many notes were later posted to recipients pinned to a letter from the Treasurer.

Numbers 1 to 3 remained with the Denman family, who returned to England, and it was several years after the death of Judith before the number one note was found. An English dealer purchased the note and sold it in 2000 to a Sydney dealer for \$1 million.

In 2008 it sold in auction for a hammer price of \$1,660,000 (actual price \$1,909,000). One hundred years after it was first numbered, it was offered for sale again, by CoinWorks in Melbourne for **\$3.5 million**. With the slump in current banknote prices it turned out to be a bad time to sell, and it was eventually sold in 2014 for **\$827,000**. Numbers 2 and 3 are yet to be seen, but numbers 4 and 5 were purchased in London and sold by auction in Australia to Alan Nicholson. In 2005 they sold in auction for \$500,000 the pair, and in late 2014, resold by CoinWorks for \$400,000 the pair. Thus ends a remarkable history for Australia’s first Australian designed notes.

(Thanks to **Alan Flint** for a copy of his award-winning talk, which was handed around for those present to inspect.)



Richard showed a) three coins recovered from the **Gilt Dragon**, shipwrecked off the West Australian coast on 28 April 1656 on its maiden voyage to Batavia with 193 persons on board (116 drowned, 7 eventually arrived in Batavia and the rest perished ashore) – all coins had certificates issued by the WA Museum, and were 1652 Mexican 8 reals, 4 reals and 2 reals; b) two Tasmanian 1898 pictorial envelopes.



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We regret to report the passing of our esteemed member **Frank**, born 12.6.37, died 21.12.14 aged 77 years
Several members attended his funeral on 30 December 2014.