



## The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

### NEWSLETTER 112 – March 2015.

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

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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 Mick's phones.

Annual membership **subscriptions** are now \$30 for members 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 members who have the capacity to receive them. In this way you 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.

**Meeting No. 903 Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 15 January 2015.**

**Passing of Frank Csikos:** The President and 5 Past Presidents attended Frank's funeral at Centennial Park.

**NAA Conference Adelaide 23-25 October 2015:** arrangements ongoing. 6 NSSA members have expressed interest in presenting papers to NAAC15.

**Field Visits:** Suggested date for the visit to the Army Museum, Keswick: Fri 6 March.  
**Old NSSA records:** Peter L. advised that he would pass on old records to the Secretary.

An Application for Membership from a man in **Hong Kong** was received to join the Society. Moved and carried that he be elected a member.

The Secretary advised that the NSSA had been invited to participate in a **Fringe event** on Sat. 21 Feb on the Concourse of the Intercontinental Hotel to promote the activity for that night only titled "Currency". There would be no cost involved and the Society would have a table to set up and promote the NSSA as well as sell or hand out any items that members wished to do so. It was moved and carried that the NSSA take up this offer.



Richard showed a) copy of a 1839 Stg. **silver coronation** 5 pound medallion, electrotype, made by the British Museum in the 1860s; b) **Roman** Republic 82BC silver denarius C. Mamilius Limetanus (19mm serrated edges); c) silver AD 37-41 Gaius Caligula (34mm); d) Rome **Trajan** silver denarius AD 98-117 (20mm); e) **Egypt** Cleopatra 51-30BC silver tetradrachm (25mm)

Neil showed unc **RAM issues** for 2014 a) \$1- **AFL** Premiers Hawthorn Football Club, on card; b) \$1- 100 years **ANZAC** counterstamped 'AL' (Albany) on card; c) \$1- 100 years ANZAC counterstamped "M" (Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance) on card; also showed d) PNC Remembrance Day 2011 \$5- "11.11.11" with 60cent stamp (limited edition of 1111PNCs original cost \$39.95 now worth approx \$900) and PNC 2 x \$2- coins commemorating Centenary of **WW1** issued in 2014 (limited edition of 1111PNCs original cost \$59.95 now worth approx \$200).

Paul S. showed a) 1872 **Bravery Award** bronze medallion issued by the **Caledonian Society**, Province of New Zealand (44mm – possibly a trial or specimen strike); b) 1876 bronze medallion **Thurso Industrial** and Art Exhibition opened by Prince & Princess of Wales (44mm);



c) 1954 brass **Royal Visit** presented by Corporation of **Quorn** (31mm Amor – only 675 struck).



Paul J. showed **Gold rush period penny token coins** from four different Australian firms in the 1850s-1860s. **Mather, and Friedman** (TAS) **Iredale** (NSW) and **Stokes** (Vic). He advised that the discovery of gold caused a population explosion. As the same coins were used in Britain and the Australian colonies, people traveling from England could arrive in Melbourne and use the coins in their pockets, but the Gold Rush immigrants did not carry large amounts of copper coins.

Australian **colonial governments** were not keen to take responsibility for providing coins. Coins were made in England and the British government could **make a penny for less than a penny**. The Victorian government could only buy one for a penny, then pay the cost of shipping and, once the coins were worn out, they would be responsible for replacing them. Colonial governments argued that the British would make the profit so they should bear the costs.

Local production in Melbourne became possible with the importation of a coining press in 1854, but there remained problems with availability of copper. In New South Wales some tokens had been made from 1852, the copper blanks were hand sawn from copper rods. Dropping the dies from a great height impressed the design. In Melbourne a supply of halfpenny blanks came with the press, so good quality tokens of that denomination could be made, but **pennies** were still brought from **England** until the 1860s. In 1862 Thomas Stokes purchased a mill capable of making copper plates of the desired thickness. This saw **tokens** issued in such huge numbers that the government felt it had to act. By then many of the early companies that had issued tokens had gone – without removing their tokens from circulation. The Victorian Government ordered the circulation of tokens to be stopped. Although some companies refunded and removed their tokens, all could not.

The tokens were withdrawn from circulation, shipped to London, melted, alloyed into bronze and struck into **new pennies**, halfpennies and farthings – at a profit. Some 330,000 tokens were withdrawn from New South Wales; the Victorian number would have been similar. There were **124 Australian firms** that issued tokens and they were issued in every colony. Tokens, many made in Melbourne, were also used in New Zealand until 1881.



Peter L. showed 1909 **China Shangdong Province** 10 cents German currency (22mm) when it was a German colony. Peter F. gave an interesting commentary on the coin and a similar coin of denomination 5 cents German currency.



Mick showed a) American type check book, b) **Brocks Creek Uranium** Share Certificate, c) New Merloo Gold Mine share certificate, d) Union Bank cheque forms, e) bundles of old ES&A and Bank of Australasia cheque forms, f) quartz crystal with another **ghost crystal** inside. He handed out free samples of the documents and cheques to those present.

### Meeting No. 904 Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 19 February 2015.

The State Library could be interested in receiving some of our records.

**NAA Report:** Peter L. advised that the NAA AGM was to be held in Sydney on 27 March and that he would be attending. The Secretary advised that he would prepare a report from SA to be tabled at the AGM. Comments were made that the NAA website upgrade by our own member Mark was excellent and quick and easy to navigate. Congratulations were extended to Mark for his fine work.

Peter L. showed base metal 38mm medallion obv. “1888-1988 ANZAAS Australian & New Zealand Assoc for the **Advancement of Science**”, rev. “To celebrate 100 years of progress in Science and Technology” within surround “Centenary Congress Sydney” in green plush-lined case (Amor Syd).



Kathryn showed a) Australian 1981 50 cent **Split Planchet** Mated Pair - this coin split after it was struck; b) Australian 1979 10c **Clamshell** Split Planchet; c) New Zealand 50 Cent Struck on a Split Planchet -the obverse is the split side; and commented on split planchets as follows: A split planchet is when a coin splits into two halves parallel to the face of the coin.

What causes it? Poorly mixed alloy, impurities or gas bubbles mean the metal hasn't bonded correctly. This causes a lamination flaw in the metal which then splits the coin apart. Split after striking -the most common: After the coin is struck the planchet splits into two pieces parallel to the face of the coin. You may have the two pieces and note they fit neatly together, or the mated coin may be long gone and you just have one side. It's quite common just to have one side. Having both sides "a mated pair" makes the split planchet coin error worth considerably more.

The inner split face where the de-lamination occurred has a typical look which is identified by rough texture and parallel metal striations.

The Clamshell - visually spectacular: A hinged split planchet or "clamshell" is a coin that looks just as the name suggests. A de-lamination has occurred as shown and the coin has split, but not completely. It remains attached by some of the edge and resembles an open clamshell. The inner surfaces of the clam will show the tell-tale metal striations. Take note if the clam has been prised apart by an excited collector or unscrupulous seller, this will devalue the error.

**Split before striking** – rare: Some time before the coin is struck the blank splits in two pieces. The split piece enters the coin press and is struck. The result is a coin that is very weakly struck due to the smaller planchet it is struck on. The split side is easy to identify as it will still show those tell-tale parallel lines that are the metal striations.

Coral showed a 2015 English fine silver 20 pounds coin commemorating Sir Winston **Churchill**.

Ray H. showed a 999/1000 gold-plated Deutsche **Reichsbank** ingot obv. featuring the German Eagle and Iron Cross, rev. "Reichsbank Direktorium" in a circle.

Mick showed items of "**Funny Money**" produced by the Maritime Union of Australia which could be handed out at the forthcoming "Fringe" activity.

Barrie showed a) a copper medallion produced by The Adelaide Mint for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **South West District Coin Club**, WA obv. featuring logo of SWDCC – a kangaroo with “Est 1964” and rev. “5<sup>th</sup> December 2014 Jubilee Anniversary” on surround with map of WA and “50 Years” in centre (100 pure silver, 200 bronze, 300 copper struck); b) rev. design, as approved by NAA, for the **NAAC 2015** conference, to be struck by The Adelaide Mint.

Paul S. showed 3 medallions to commemorate the **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Queen Victoria**, designed by Frank Bowcher, struck by Spink & Sons Ltd each showing 4 images of the Royal family: a) silver, edge engraved “Presented by James Catto 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1897” (a Scottish whisky manufacturer); b) bronze, with wording “May the blessing of God continue to crown your glorious reign”; c) white metal.

### Meeting No. 905 held Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 19 March 2015.

**Business Arising from Minutes:** *NAA Conference Adelaide 23-25 October 2015:* arrangements ongoing. Members to provide extracts of papers to Walter Bloom ASAP. *Future Field Visits:* Suggested date for the visit to the **Army Museum**, Keswick: Now suggested date **Tue 20 Oct** just prior to NAA Conference. The Secretary to check details with Museum. *NSSA participation in Fringe event on Sat 21 Feb:* Mick reported that due to extreme hot weather and poor venue site, the activity proved unsuccessful for the NSSA. No items were sold and very few people visited the NSSA stand. Members Barrie, Mick, Paul S., Peter L. and Peter F. attended and supported the NSSA involvement.

*Australian Post Card Society:* David advised that the Australian Postcard Society was holding its next exhibition at the Torrens Parade Drill Hall on 2/3 May next and suggested that the NSSA might like to support this event – cost of a table was \$35. Richard advised that he would be involved at this exhibition and it was moved and carried that the NSSA also take a table to support the event and to promote the NSSA.



Mick talked about “**Short Snorters**” and showed a number of examples of these: In this month’s IAG auction at Lot 234 was an Armitage-McFarlane 10/- note with 5-6 handwritten female staff signatures and “Schouten Islands”. Described as in Fine condition it sold for a hammer price of \$100.

The best Australian example seen was a Sheehan-McFarlane 10/- note in the Noble auction of July 2007 which had 21 signatures from the Command Staff of the US army CAC, which then sold for \$200 in VF condition. Illustrated next page.



Such notes are described as “short snorters”. Examples date back to **WW1** when airmen made souvenirs of notes from various countries by all signing each other’s notes and keeping them as souvenirs, especially in the knowledge that many of their colleagues may later be killed in action.

Various customs revolved around not being able to produce one to a signatory on demand and thus having to pay for the drinks, or the man with the least amount of signatures on his note having to do likewise. Even Generals participated and many such notes are now part of history. For more information, check the Internet.”

Paul S. showed 1799 copper medallion “40<sup>th</sup> Birthday **William Pitt** the Younger” obv. showing image of Pitt (used by the Pitt Club, **Saddleworth**) with surround in very small lettering, “Appointed First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer Dec 1783”, rev. “With Fortitude, Wisdom and Integrity he serves a prosperous nation and a virtuous king 1799 aged 40” (52mm).



Peter L. showed 1981 **Uganda** 10 shillings featuring Prince Charles and Lady Dianna Spencer (38mm cu/ni) encased in plastic holder and showed copies of artists depiction of soldiers Trench Art in War.



David showed 4 medallions/tokens commemorating **NSW Railways** – a) 150 years NSW Railways 1855-2005 – Railways opened 26 Sep 1855 (29mm gilt), b) “To commemorate the Centenary of the NSW Railways 26 Sep 1955” rev. shows 2 engines (30mm cu/ni), c) copper token Australian Tea Mart – **Hanks & Lloyd**, Sydney (34mm) “To commemorate the opening of The Sydney Railway 1855”, d) copper medallion “New South Wales Railways Jubilee Year 26 Sep 1905” (29mm).



Neil showed a) The last pre-decimal coins and first decimal coins in red plastic folder “**Changeover Souvenir** 14 February 1966 Australia” with 1963 sixpence, shilling & florin, 1964 halfpenny, penny and threepence and the 1966 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50cent coins; b) Blue/grey plastic **Hendo** folder “Souvenir Coin Album First Issue Decimal Currency February 1966” with each of the 6 coins issued in 1966; c) 2015 six coin set (normal designs for 5, 10, 20 cents, \$1 and \$2 coins) celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal Australian Mint in cardboard/plastic folder in protective sleeve. The 50 cent coin features “50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal Australian Mint” and the **\$1 coin** has a **planchet flaw** which runs from rim at around 3 o’clock in a straight line to the rim at about 6 o’clock.







*City of Adelaide* at Port Adelaide 2014, image, Mick Vort-Ronald.

Paul J. showed a) 2010 Australian 20cents coin on card to commemorate “Centenary of Australian Taxation Office”; b) pin on card – “100 The Australian **Taxation Office** Centenary 2010”; c) Entry Ticket to go on board ***City of Adelaide Clipper Ship*** to see restoration work at Port Adelaide site (“old” ticket design featured painting of ship on buff paper). Cost of entry is \$20.



Peter F. showed **Coo-ees Pinocchio Boys Club** pin with figure of Pinocchio cut out within surround. On rev. “The best for less in mens and boys wear – Coo-ee Clothing Co”.



Barrie showed nickel-plated **cast skull-head** being produced by The Adelaide Mint for use as walking-stick top and shoe-horn top (copper-beryllium 200gms)



Richard showed a) silver medallion obv. “**Amateur Basketball Union of Australia**” on surround with two basketballers in centre, rev. within laurel wreath “Aust. C’Ship won by NSW 1946 R. H. Thomas”;

b) **Phoenicia**, Berytus AE (18mm);



c) **Alexandria** billon tetradrachm (27mm); d) copper **Bithynia**, Koinon AE (34mm) and gave an interesting talk on the life of the Roman Emperor, **Hadrian** (born *Publius Aelius Hadrianus Augustus* 24 January 76AD, died 10 July 138AD). He was Roman Emperor from 117 to 138AD who rebuilt the Pantheon, constructed the Temple of Venus and Roma, built Hadrian’s Wall marking the northern limit of Britannia and was regarded as one of the *Five Good Emperors*.