



## The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

### NEWSLETTER 117 – June 2016.

**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. **Web page** [sanumismatics.org.au](http://sanumismatics.org.au)  
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. If paying by EFT please advise Treasurer Mick when doing so. See NSSA website.

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.

### **FORWARD DIARY**

Meeting dates, third Thursday of the month, 7.30 pm.

Thursday 18 August, no show and tell, speaker Bernie Begley from Queensland.

Tuesday 9 August, census night. Thursday 18 August, NSSA meeting, show and tell.

**NSSA Meeting No. 918, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 21 April 2016.**

Present 12 members, 10 apologies.

NAA Report: The Secretary asked those members who would like to have a printed hard copy of the NAA Journal No 26, at a cost to be determined by the NAA, to advise him ASAP. Numbers to date were 5. It was agreed that the Secretary advise those members who do not have an email address with the NSSA that, now that the NAA Journal is fully digital, they will no longer receive printed copies of the Journal

Other Business: **SA History Month:** Neil advised that May was SA History Month and that we should consider promoting the NSSA's May meeting next year for inclusion in the events promoted by the SA History Society. **Post Card Stamp & Coin Show at Torrens Parade Ground 30 Apr-1 May 16:** It was moved and carried that the NSSA have a table once again at this event at a cost of \$40.



Barrie showed a) 2 old identical South Australian **pewter key ring tags** with “Bentley” engraved on one side with number “79-4225”, possibly a telephone number and on the other side number “46-2420”, possibly a car number; b) the full set of 14 x Official 2016 Coin Collection “**ANZAC to Afghanistan**” issued by RAM to commemorate 14 significant military moments that have shaped Australia over the past 100 years – 10 of the coins were 20 cents cupro-nickel and 4 were 25 cents gilt (the only 25 cents coins ever issued by RAM since decimal currency). The coins are not to be issued as circulating currency.



Paul S. showed a silver **Boer War** medallion “Defend our Empire in the Cause of Freedom” (37mm) 1899-1900. Obv. two shields below crown with words “United in the Cause of Freedom – We defend our Empire – We Serve Under One Crown” He commented that 178,000 soldiers served under the British flag fighting Dutch farmers and that Australia issued 54 medalettes, New Zealand produced 24 medalettes and England produced 12 to 15 commemorative medalettes.

Mark showed a silver **Spanish** 8 reals coin (41mm circ.1799).



Paul J showed 3 **Syracuse** coins: a) Silver Tetradrachm from the *Second Democracy* 466-405 BC. (23mm, 4mm thick) This coin was struck circa 430-420 BC. It shows a charioteer driving walking quadriga right, holding kentron and reins; Nike flying above crowning horses / Head of Arethusa, hair tied with ribbon overhead, surrounded by four dolphins swimming. The die-engraver in Syracuse had evolved to such a level that the individual artists began signing their work on the dies. Never before, and probably never since, have die-engravers achieved such a high level of fame much the same as artists today. After the Carthaginian invasion and the re-establishment of tyranny the artistic environment in Syracuse was destroyed forever. b) Bronze Dionysios I. 405-367 BC. Æ Hemilitra (16mm, 2.55 g). Struck circa 405 - 367 BC. Female head left, hair in ampyx and sphendone, no earrings; leaves behind / Dolphin right; shell below. c) Bronze Timoleon and the Third Democracy. From 344 - 317 BC. Æ Hemidrachm. (22mm, 11.59 g). Timoleontic Symmachy coinage. Struck circa 344-339/8 BC. Laureate head of Zeus Eleutherios right / Thunderbolt; to right, eagle standing right.

He commented that Syracuse had nineteen tyrants and three democracies during the Greek rule. Syracuse has been conquered by the Greeks (Syracuse was allied with Sparta and Corinth), the Romans, the Carthaginians, the Vandals, the Byzantine Empire, the Muslims, the Normans, the Genoese, the House of Bourbon, Italy, Germany, Allies and finally Italy.

Syracuse's golden period; this is best remembered by; Hiero II gained power in 275 BC and he started a period of 50 years of peace, in which Syracuse prospered and became one of the most important capitals in the ancient world. He also had the theatre enlarged as well as other public works. It was under his rule that the most famous Syracusan lived, the mathematician and natural philosopher Archimedes. Among his many inventions were various military engines including the claw of Archimedes, later used to resist the Roman siege of 214 BC–212 BC. (The Claw was a weapon invented by Archimedes to defend the seaward portion of Syracuse's city wall against amphibious assault. Experts are not sure what it looked like but by all accounts it can best be described as a sort of crane equipped with a grappling hook that was able to lift an attacking ship partly out of the water, which would cause the ship to capsize or suddenly drop, damaging it) During this period there were noted literary figures, which included Theocritus.

Hiero's successor broke the alliance with the Romans after their defeat at the Battle of Cannae. The Romans, led by Consul Marcus Claudius Marcellus, besieged the city in 214 BC. The city held out for three years, but fell in 212 BC. After this Syracuse's importance waned.



Neil showed varieties and **errors** in Australian coins: a) 2015 1 dollar “mob of roos” with the 3rd (middle) roo missing its right hind leg; b) 1999 2 dollars with a cud on the rim running from 5 to 9 o’clock; c) 2001 20 cents with a cud on the rim at 9 o’clock; d) 1964 Perth penny with a die crack on the reverse running from the rim in front of the roo’s nose through the star and returning to the rim via the roo’s toe; e) 1964 Perth halfpenny with colourful patina or toning; f) 2001 20 cents Sir Donald **Bradman** expertly cut to display the outline of the batsman.



David F. showed a Daily Mail (UK) World War 1 **King’s Shilling** (27mm) and commented: “Between 1914 and 1918, more than six million men from Britain and Ireland enlisted to serve in the Great War (First World War). Upon enlisting, they received a King’s shilling – which was a day’s pay for a private. The expression, “to take a King’s shilling” – dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century – meant that a man had agreed to serve as a soldier or sailor. This Daily Mail commemorative coin was “given away” to subscribers similar to our own Advertiser Newspaper commemorative coin promotions.”



A member showed a medal celebrating the centenary of **Horwood Bagshaw** manufacturing at Mannum and the ‘1070’ header. Gilt bronze, 50mm. *Obverse*: A blacksmith forging on an anvil. Inscription around bordered rim, CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF MANUFACTURING AT MANNUM /



1877–1977. *Reverse*: A header pulled by a tractor in a wheat field. Inscription around bordered rim, HORWOOD BAGSHAW CENTENARY 1070 HEADER. He commented: “Horwood Bagshaw is a household name in Australia as a manufacturer of agricultural machinery and implements. In 1838, John Stokes Bagshaw established the Pioneer Works in Adelaide which specialised in agricultural machinery and constructed the first winnower in South Australia. The business continued under one of his sons John, and then under John’s sons. Around 1924 the company was bought out by Joseph Henry Horwood’s mechanical engineering company which specialised in mining equipment, the two operations were combined, and Horwood Bagshaw Ltd was formed. In 1972 the Mannum-based company of David Shearer was purchased, and within two years the business was consolidated in Mannum. By 1980 Horwood Bagshaw had agricultural, mining and industrial engineering divisions, but due to the severe downturn of the rural economy during this period was placed into receivership in 1987. In 1998 the company of Horwood Bagshaw was restructured and revived and now operates as a diverse contract engineering and fabrication business which includes the manufacture of agricultural machinery.”

David S. advised that **New Zealand** is to produce, available through NZ Post, a series of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 **notes** all with matching serial numbers. Apparently only 1000 of each will be issued



Mick showed a set of six numbered carded encapsulated **Jim Beam** medallions called silver dollars. The medallions are 38 mm in diameter, silver coloured and appear to have been cast. They commemorate 200 years of Jim Beam whisky that originated in Kentucky, U.S.A. in 1795, which puts the issue of the medallions at around 1995. The obverses of the medallions feature Master Distillers;

1	Jacob Beam	1770-1834
2	David Beam	1802-1854
3	David M. Beam	1833-1913
4	Col. James Beam	1864-1947
5	T. Jeremiah Beam	1899-1977
6	Booker Noe	1929-present.

The reverses have a common theme of the company name and logo and “The American Spirit since 1795”. In 2014 the Jim Beam company turned down a takeover offer from a Japanese company for \$16 billion US.

### Meeting No. 919, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 19 May 2016.

Present: 12 members, 7 apologies.

Business Arising from Minutes: *Canadian \$20 Notes donated by our two Canadian members.* Still awaiting response from one person. *Letters to members advising NAA Journal now only available digitally:* Draft letter was submitted by Secretary. He was asked to include an enquiry whether members had an email address or connection to emails and to direct them also to our website address.

*SA History Month May 2017:* It was suggested that we try and piggy-back on another organization’s activity – National Trust, Freemasons, Naval Military & Air Force Club. The Secretary advised that he

would look into such opportunities. *Post Card, Stamp & Coin Show 30 Apr-1 May* was deemed a successful involvement.

NAA Report: Peter reported on the AGM: NAA has agreed to assist to put AGSA history on line if required. So far the NAA had received orders for 8 hard-copies of Journals - need at least 20. Walter will confirm total orders by end of May. Web page now has a blog section. NAA requires articles for next issue of Journal. Next conference will be held in Melbourne, November 2017. In mid 2017 New Zealand will hold a conference in Auckland. Darren Burgess has been appointed NAA Vice President. Peter commented that the NAA President was currently in Germany doing research.

Other Business: Peter L. advised that he would be giving a presentation to the Adelaide Collectors' Society on Thursday 26 May on the AGSA medal and coin collection.

*Suggestion by President* that the NSSA look at having an annual coin show, particularly as ANDA no longer seems to include Adelaide as a venue and we should be looking at encouraging more people to be actively involved in our hobby. It was carried that a sub-committee comprising the President, Secretary and Vice-President be formed to look into such an event and report back to the members in 2 months.



#### Numismatics:

Paul J. showed four coins from **Thrace** and **Macedonia** a) Alexander the Great, Silver Tetradrachm; (25mm, 17.07g). In the name and types of Alexander III. "Amphipolis" mint. Struck circa 307-297 BC. Head of Herakles (Gatekeeper of Olympus, God of strength, heroes, sports, athletes, health, agriculture, fertility, trade, oracles and divine protector of mankind) right, wearing lion skin / Zeus (God of the sky, lightning, thunder, law, order, justice) Aëtrophoros seated left; in left field, Λ (lambda has a value of 30) above torch; tripod below throne; b) Silver Tetradrachm Philip III Arrhidaios King of MACEDON. 323-317 BC. (26mm, 17.16g, 3mm thickness). Babylon mint. Head of Herakles right, wearing lion's skin headdress / Zeus seated left, holding eagle and sceptre; M (it has a value of 40) in left field, B (this means to reach the top) below seat; c) Silver Tetradrachm Lysimachos King of THRACE, Macedonia - 305-281 BC. (30mm, 16.98g). Amphipolis mint (on the plains of Macedonia). Struck circa 288/7-282/1 BC. Diademed head of the deified Alexander right, with horn of Ammon (Ammon became identified with the ram and all other Egyptian deities and was adopted when Alexander the Great conquered Egypt)/ Athena Nikephoros seated left, left arm resting on shield, transverse spear in background; kerykeion (A Kerykeion, or herald's wand, is an emblem of authority carried by couriers for safe passage, and most often associated with the Greek Hermes. It has been mistakenly utilized as a symbol of the medical industry) with handle to inner left, monogram to outer

right; **d**) Gold Stater - posthumous issue c.88-86 B.C - THRACE, Kingdom of Lysimachos - (323-281 B.C.) (20mm, 8.26g), Callatis mint Obv. diademed head of Alexander the Great to right, wearing horn of Ammon, rev. Athena (Athena was the Greek virgin goddess of reason, intelligent activity, arts and literature. She was the daughter of Zeus) enthroned to left, holding Nike (Nike was the goddess of victory) and resting left arm on shield, transverse spear resting against right side, to right BASILEWS, to left LUSIMACOU (the translation is King Lysimachos), FM (music) under arm, KA\*\*L on throne (this can be interpreted as God on a rock), trident below in exergue (A space beneath the main design on a coin or medal for the insertion of the date or other minor inscription).

In amplification, he stated: “I have included coins from Thrace with my Macedonian coins because in 168 BC, after the Third Macedonian war, Thrace formed part of Eastern Macedonia; as it does to this day.

### "Alexander the Great 356 BC – 323 BC

Alexander the Great’s Balkan campaign resulted in the defeat of Thrace, Illyria, he then marched to the Danube, this secured his northern frontier.[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander\\_the\\_Great\\_-\\_cite\\_note-47](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great_-_cite_note-47) Alexander razed Thebes and divided its territory between the other Boeotian cities.

Alexander then went on to conquer Asia Minor, The Levant, Syria, Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Persia and campaigned into India. After his death his empire was divided between his 4 generals Cassander; Lysimachus; Ptolemy; Seleucus.

“As Arrhidaios, who became Phillip III of Macedon, grew older it became apparent that he had mild learning difficulties. Alexander was fond of Arrhidaios and took him on his campaigns, both to protect his life and to prevent his use as a pawn in any prospective challenge for the throne. After Alexander's death in 323 BC, the army in Asia proclaimed Arrhidaios as king but he was a mere a figurehead as he was used as a pawn for a series of powerful generals. Philip III of Macedon reigned as king of Macedonia from 323 BC until his death. He was an elder half-brother of Alexander the Great. Phillip chose his friend as his successor and not his son who then rebelled against his father unsuccessfully and Alexander the Great’s mother had Phillip III and his wife killed.

“Lysimachos, King of Thrace, fought in Alexander's Persian campaigns. In 328 BC he was one of his immediate bodyguards. In 324 BC, in Susa, he was crowned in recognition for his actions in India. After Alexander’s death in 323 BC, he was appointed to the government of Thrace as the Military Governor. After Alexander’s Empire was divided by his four most powerful Generals, Lysimachos invaded Asia Minor. Lysimachos now allied himself with Ptolemy I and he invaded Boeotia which was part of Cassander’s kingdom. Seleucus I invaded the territory of Lysimachos in Asia Minor. In 281 BC, Lysimachos crossed the Hellespont into Lydia and, at the decisive Battle of Corupedium, was killed.”

Ray showed a boxed set of two coins issued by the Royal Mint to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **Winston Churchill’s** death – the original 1965 Crown and a 2015 silver 5 pounds, both 38mm diameter.

Peter H. showed three PNCs issued by Australia Post for **Remembrance Day** 2015 featuring a) \$2- (20mm), 11,000 issued at a cost of \$20 each; b) \$2- (20mm) Limited Edition of 1,111 issue cost \$50 each; c) jointly with the UK 2 pounds bi-metal (28mm) issue cost \$35. He also showed a World War II US Army officer’s cap with gold-plated hat badge featuring the US eagle and motto “EPLURIBUS UNUM”.

Neil showed 2016 RAM coin Issues: a) \$1 **Year of the Monkey**, rev. features a monkey (25mm); b) 50 cents 14 sided, rev. features a monkey (31.51mm). obv. of both depicts the 12 animals in the Chinese calendar; c) set of four dollar coins paying tribute to the Australian **sovereign** struck at the Sydney Mint from 1855 to 1870 and with a similar rev. design. Three of the coins have S, M and P privy marks to honour the locations of Royal Mint branches established at Sydney (1855), Melbourne



(1872) and Perth (1899), while the 4<sup>th</sup> has the “c” mintmark of RAM in Canberra. None of these coins will be released into circulation.

Kathryn showed a mint error - an Australian **florin** struck in 1944 at the San Francisco Mint. Struck, in fact on a planchet intended for a shilling coin and graded by PCGS at MS63. Noted on the holder was the weight of 5.65g the same as that of the Australian shilling. She discussed the features of the coin that made it stand out as a genuine error coin and not just a damaged or tooled coin (PMD). Clearly visible on the coin is fishtailing of the base of the letters indicating metal flow outwards as the planchet was smaller than the intended florin. [Congratulations were extended to her on her engagement to Mark!]



Peter L. showed three South Australian **stamp duty dies**: a) oblong, TWO PENCE, with Kings Crown at top; b) 1 ½ D, diagonally in square with Kings Crown at top; c) 2c, diagonally within square (with flattened corner at bottom) with Queens Crown at top.



Paul S. showed an 1864 silver medallion (53mm) obv. The Royal **North Lancashire** Agricultural Society Established 1846 with shield in centre featuring 3 lions below a Queens Crown (the top lion has a wooden bench superimposed over it) and a plough, scythe and hoe below shield, rev. “Awarded to C.B. Kennedy Esq for the 2<sup>nd</sup> best 2 yr old gelding for hunting purposes” with wreath and “Lytham 24<sup>th</sup> August 1864” on outside surround.



A South Australian **Boy Scout** Pentathlon Award medallion was shown, base metal, bronzed, suspension loop, 50 x 55 mm. Obv. TENTH AUSTRALIAN JAMBOREE WOODHOUSE 1973–1974. Around the top, Greek legend translated as: *Hail to the Victors*. Below, PENTATHLON AWARD. Rev. Greek legend translated as: *The Victory over self is of all victories the first and best, while self-defeat is of all defeats at once the worst and the most shameful*. Below, PLATO, and in small incuse letters, LEGA MELB.

The reverse translation (courtesy Dr George Couvalis, Flinders University) seems somewhat convoluted and winners of the medal may have been given a simplified explanation for the meaning of



the Greek text, more in line with the Scouts ethos. For example, the obverse translation is understood by scouts to mean “rejoice, we have won”. Enquiries about the reverse translation are ongoing.

**Woodhouse** is a scout camp in Spring Gully Road, Piccadilly, South Australia, which includes some 54 hectares of gum tree wooded hilly terrain for outdoor activities.



Mick showed an image of a **mis-strike**, 1963 Australian three-pence ex-IAG auction, which he initially thought was on a 6d planchet. Members agreed that it was on a 3d planchet.



c) 1951 George V Festival of Britain **five shillings** with edge writing – “INDUSTRIA...”; d) 1953 Elizabeth II England five shillings, with edge writing “FAITH AND TRUTH I WILL BEAR UNTO YOU”; e) 1977 Elizabeth II Royal Silver Jubilee, with milled edge (38mm) giving one 1977 to each member present; f) Falkland Islands 50 pence, rev. features a sheep above sailing ship and words “DESIRE THE RIGHT”; g) 1989 England **two pounds** commemorating the Tercentenary of the Bill of Rights.





Richard showed six old **English coins** a) 1547-1551 Henry VIII silver groat (25mm); b) 1580 Elizabeth I silver sixpence (25mm); c) 1604-1619 James I silver shilling (31mm); d) 1707E Anne silver crown with edge lettering (39mm); e) 1711 Anne silver shilling (24mm); f) George II silver shilling (25mm)

### Meeting No. 920, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 16 June 2016.

Present: 11 members, 11 apologies.

The Secretary advised that letters had been sent to all affected members without email addresses. *SA History Month May 2017*: It was suggested that we try and piggy-back on another organization's activity – National Trust, Freemasons, Naval Military & Air Force Club. The Secretary advised that he would look into such opportunities. *Possible NSSA Coin Show* – The Secretary advised that he had asked David to look at possible dates for hire of Torrens Parade Ground Drill Hall.

NAA Report: The Secretary advised that the NAA requires articles for next issue of the NAA Journal and hoped that those who had presented papers at the last Conference held in Adelaide had submitted their articles to the Editor. Next conference will be held in Melbourne, November 2017.



Mick showed photos of test Australian polymer notes showing designs and holograms experimented by the CSIRO and the RBA and commented on some of these experimental notes being put up for auction. He advised that he would be submitting an article on this for the next issue of CAB Magazine.



Paul J. showed a) Silver tetradrachm **EGYPT**, Kingdom of Ptolemy I issued 305-283 B.C., (14.06 g), Alexandria mint, Obv. diademed head of Ptolemy I to right, with aegis, rev. eagle to left with closed wings, standing on thunderbolt, in front P over monogram **\*\*PAR\***, around **BASILEW[S] PTOLEMAIOU** (King Ptolemy) and commented, "Ptolemy I, one of the seven somatophylakes (bodyguards) who served as Alexander the Great's generals and deputies, was appointed satrap of Egypt after Alexander's death in 323 BC. In 305 BC he took the name "Soter" (saviour). Ptolemy I, Soter died in winter 283 or spring 282 at the age of 84. He was a cautious leader and he had a compact and well-ordered realm to show at the end of forty years of war."



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemy\\_I\\_Soter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemy_I_Soter) - cite note-8

b) Antoninus Pius Billion drachm of Alexandria Egypt 138 – 161; from the later period.

Laureate head right / Serapis (The cult of Serapis was introduced during the 3rd century BC on the orders of Ptolemy I, to unify the Greeks and Egyptians in his realm. Serapis continued to increase in popularity during the Roman period, often replacing Osiris as the consort of Isis in temples outside Egypt) LZ above (L Z is Egyptian shorthand for "Year 7" of the reign) in slow quadriga to left.

He commented, "Hadrian wanted the much younger Marcus Aurelius (he was only 16) to succeed him, the dying emperor realized Marcus was too young and instead chose Antoninus Pius who was thought to be "safe" until the young Marcus matured. Antoninus Pius became Emperor on the understanding that he would carry on the policies of Hadrian. During his time as Emperor there was one revolt in Egypt that was put down. What I find interesting is that during the Greek and Roman rule of Egypt the Silver Tetradrachm was in circulation. The Tetradrachm was in circulation for a long period of time and these coins were often hoarded because of their silver content and size."

c) a Roman gold solidus of Arcadius 383/408AD.



Barrie showed a carved stone head of Maitreya (a deity /goddess) from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century Kushan period (Pakistan) obtained when he visited the ruins at **Taxila (NW Pakistan)** in 1965. Taxila is the site of 5 ancient cities, including one established by Alexander the Great, where armies rested after fighting their way through the Khyber Pass.



Paul S. showed a bronze/gilt 1837 Accession medal **Queen Victoria** issued by Messrs Griffin & Hyams (62mm, J.Barber) obv. young Queen's head with "VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA" on surround, rev. within wreath and below crown "BORN 24 MAY 1819 ASCENDED THE THRONE JUNE 20, 1837"

Ray showed a **Millenium** 1999/2000 British **Five Pounds** cupro-nickel coin with words ANNO DOMINI on rev. featuring map of Great Britain with clock hand at 12 above Greenwich Meridian, obv. Queen's Head with initials below "IRB" (designer Ian Rank-Broadley FRBS). Rev. designer Jeffery Matthews.





Ray



Mark

Mark showed a United States 1950 dime (10 cent) encased in an aluminium capsule with text around reading “American Museum of **Atomic Energy Neutron Irradiated**”. A novelty item and visitor souvenir. The following comments are attributed to Kathryn Harris:

“In the 1950’s **Oak Ridge Tennessee** was the site of the world’s single largest source of radionuclides, the availability of which revolutionised medicine, many branches of science and industry. The Oak Ridge Graphite Reactor was also the place of the American Museum of Atomic Energy. Visitors to the museum between 1949 and 1964 could pull a silver dime from their pocket and make it radioactive! A machine at the museum bombarded the coin with neutrons (atomic particles generated in a nuclear reactor) making it radioactive. The amount of radiation it contains though is less than that given off by a luminous watch dial – so it’s safe to handle. It’s also been said that by the time the coin left the museum in the pocket of its owner the radioactivity had decayed away completely.

It’s thought that there are more than a million dimes that were put through this process, which was stopped after 1964 when the US changed its dimes to nickel-clad copper.



Richard showed a) a copper medallion issued by the RAM c1970s promoting **Canberra**. Obv. “CANBERRA” and coat of arms, rev. featuring old Parliament House, Australian War Memorial, Lake Burley Griffin, Royal Australian Mint (50mm); b) Australian **sixpence** c1910-1930 George V with background cut out leaving kangaroo, emu and centre shield remaining. Rev has 925 stamped on back of shield; c) 1891 **English crown** stg silver with Queen Victoria Jubilee head (38mm); d) 1820 English crown stg silver George III (38mm, engraver Petrucci); e) 1820 English half crown stg silver George IV (32mm); f) 1889 English double florin (4 shillings “Barmaid’s curse”) Queen Victoria (36mm).