



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 121 – June 2017.

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

NSSA web page -- sanumismatics.org.au

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, (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** fall due in November each year, \$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.

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 by email.

FORWARD DIARY

General meetings, Thursdays – 20 July, 17 August, 21 September 7.45 pm.

Please write these dates down in your calendar and/or diary NOW.

Meeting No. 930 Royal Society Room, Adelaide 20 April 2017

Present: 16 members, 11 apologies.

Business Arising from Minutes: *SA History Month May 2017:* Members were asked to provide only one item of numismatics for show and tell after Peter's main address at the May meeting for SA History Month and that members arrive half an hour early to assist prepare for visitors. The Secretary would bring some additional items for supper.

NAA Report: The Secretary advised that the NAA Journal No 27 had been placed on the NAA website and all members had been advised that it was on the web. The Secretary tabled his NSSA Report for the AGM.

Philatelic and Postcard Society Stamp Show TTD 6-7 May: Support was requested to assist man the NSSA table at this Show. *Honorary Member for year 2016/17:* It was moved that Gerry McGinley of At The Toss of a Coin be appointed an Honorary Member for the year 2016/17 for his support of the Society during the 2016 Coin Show. Carried. *Best Wishes Card:* A card, signed by all members present, was prepared for past member Lyn wishing her good health and best wishes following her move to a residential care home in Gawler.

Numismatics:



Peter L spoke about **Sedley Marianne Towler** the “Keeper of Coins” curator of the SA Museum. She was appointed in 1917 and gave some 300 numismatic talks during her time with the Museum, was one of the founders of the NSSA in 1926 and was active in numismatics until her death in 1931.



Richard: showed a) 1798 gilt-bronze medal (47.5mm, 39.49gms) issued as a tribute to serving Petty Officers in the action of **Lord Nelson's** victory over the French at the Battle of the Nile on 1 August 1798. This was the first time a medal was issued to the actual combatants of a battle – 25 gold were issued to captains, 150 in silver to officers, 300 in gilt bronze to petty officers, 525 in copper to marines and 6000 in bronzed copper to sailors; b) silver-gilt copper medallion **Battle of Trafalgar** “Oct 21, 1805” featuring rev. ships of the fleet and “England Expects Every Man Will Do His Duty” on surround, obv. head of Nelson with “HORATIO VISCOUNT NELSON. K.B. DUKE OF BRONTE” on surround.



A member: showed a) **Adelaide High School** badge in 9ct gold, blue enamel, 16.5 x 22 mm. Stamped with Schlank's crown mark on reverse, and engraved: A.S. FROST 1918–19; b). **St Peter's College Boys (SA)** badge in 9ct gold, blue enamel, 18.5 x 31 mm, by Stevenson. Stamped on reverse: 205, and engraved: L.D. FROST 1945–47; c) Bronze check, C.T.A / PARCEL CHECK, stamped 417 on obverse, 28mm, 4.5mm hole. Possibly **Commercial Travellers Association**; d) Bronze check, initials OPGI in monogram, OPERATIVE PLUMBERS GAS FITTERS & G.I. WORKERS SOCIETY. Reverse: SOUTH AUSTRALIA / 4. 23mm, holed. An unlisted 4d check used in the society club rooms.



Helen: showed **2017 unc United Kingdom Coin set** of coins: 1 pound – twelve sided, bi-metallic, (23.43mm and thickness 2.8mm) features the floral emblems of England (Rose), Scotland (Thistle), Wales (Leek) and Northern Ireland (Shamrock) and, with a hologram and electronic counting measures, is reputed to be the most secure coin in the world; a 2 pounds; 50 pence; 20 pence; 10 pence; 5 pence; 2 pence; 1 pence.



Paul S: showed a 1901/2 Scottish copper medallion obv. castle and coat-of-arms with “ROYAL (DICK) VETERINARY COLLEGE EDINBURGH” on surround , rev. issued to “A.E. MASSY Physiology Session 1901-02”.

G. N.: showed a set of 56 “America’s **State and Territory Quarters**” issued over 11 years – 1999 to 2009 (below).



Peter H: showed a **Christian Endeavour** badge in green, white, red vitreous enamel featuring “CE” and word “Intermediate” within form of badge, rev. “Wallace Brisbane” below clip pin.



Stuart: showed 3 **Japanese** WW2 Occupation notes, Australian 10 shillings note and Australian 1 pound note with Certificate of Clearance.

Mick: showed an interesting newspaper cutting from the Sydney Morning Herald of **26/9/1933** headed “**Souvenir Shilling** – Digger’s Long Search” concerning a shilling that had been engraved “My last shilling for Australia’s last man” – Mick comments, “An interesting account of a lost shilling appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper on 26.9.1933. The record of its travels is not the only interesting feature of the story. Even though it passed through eight hands in a very short time, no-one noticed that it was engraved, which just goes to show that the people who handled the coin either had the normal side facing up every time, or were simply unobservant.”

Neil: showed the Official 2017 RAM issue Coin Collection featuring **Medals of Honour** comprising 10 x 20 cents cuni coins and 4 x 25 cents copper coins highlighting Australian medals of honour from the Victoria Cross through to the Australian Defence Medal.

Meeting No. 931 Royal Society Room, Adelaide 18 May 2017

Present: 16 members, 10 apologies, 5 visitors.

History Month Address: Peter L. addressed the meeting on the topic “Background and History of the Numismatic Collection held at the **Art Gallery** of South Australia”. His power-point presentation included the history and collation of the Collection by the Museum in South Australia and its subsequent transfer to the Art Gallery, and provided an insight into the leading persons and those involved at the Museum who were instrumental in establishing the NSSA in 1926. He showed images of some of the important pieces now held at AGSA.



Paul J: showed a Gold Stater, Alexander III ‘the Great’ **KINGS of MACEDON**. 336-323 BC. (16.5mm - 8.70g). Arados mint. Struck under Menes, circa 325/4-324/3 BC. Helmeted head of Athena right / Nike standing left, holding wreath and stylis; AP monogram in left field.



Helen: showed a copy of an **Adelaide Assay Office** 1852 gold ingot reproduced in 22 carat gold by The Adelaide Mint with Certificate of Authenticity. Images previous page.

Barrie: showed the 2009 RAM Subscription Coin featuring the same **Adelaide Assay Office** 1852 ingot supplied to the Royal Australian Mint for inclusion within the silver proof subscription coin, with the historical details provided by the NSSA for its accompanying story-card.



Richard: showed a **Cyme** silver tetradrachm c150BC Asia Minor close to the kingdom of Lydia.

Paul S: showed a group of medallions relating to various themes that he collects concerning British **Coronation and Jubilee** issues, and Exhibition and Agricultural prizes: a) 1887 silver Queen Victoria Golden Jubilee, b) 1887 bronze Queen Victoria Golden Jubilee, c) 1897 silver Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee, d) 1897 bronze Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee, e) 1902 silver King Edward VII Coronation, f) 1902 bronze King Edward VII Coronation, g) 1911 silver George V Coronation, h) 1911 bronze George V Coronation, i) 1905 silver Royal Horticultural Society of London "Temple Show", j) 1897 bronze Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee with rev. images of all British Colonies etc, k) 1886 bronze International Exhibition Liverpool, l) 1885 silver Centenary of Sunday Schools in Wales, m) Staffordshire Agricultural Society group of 4 silver medals awarded in 1887-88-89,91.



Mick: exhibited a set of **Zimbabwe** banknotes from 1 to 200,000 dollars dated 31 July 2007 called Bearer Cheques. These were the second series of highly inflationary notes of that country. They were called bearer cheques because they had to be used before the stated expiry date and they eventually went from one cent to as high as a \$100,000,000. Munich-based security printers Giesecke & Devrient ceased providing banknote paper on 1 July 2008 in response to an official request from the German Government. The Zimbabwe dollar was suspended on 12 April 2009 after the issue of 100 trillion dollar notes. One form of circulating specie was a fuel ration coupon.

Other Business: Presentation of Fellow Certificate: The President presented David R. with his Certificate on being appointed a Fellow of the Society in recognition and appreciation of his outstanding service to the Society over many years. He stated that David had joined the Society in 1974, was President in 1976 and again in 1979 and editor of the NSSA Journal/Newsletter in 1980/81, in 1983/88 and again in 1991/95 and that he had contributed many articles to many numismatic journals over the years. Image next page.



Neil and David FNSSA

Meeting No. 932, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 15 June 2017

Present: 12 members, 7 apologies, 2 visitors.

Business arising from previous meetings: Planning for 2017 Coin Show—Torrens Training Depot 17–19 Nov 2017. Neil thanked members for attending our History Month meeting and Peter’s presentation.



Mick discussed two aspects of the booklet *Dollars & Cents and You*, sent to every household in Australia in 1966 to prepare for the change to decimal currency on 14 February of that year. Now, 51 years later, two items from the booklet are still worthy of discussion. Here is the rhyme said to have helped in working out exchange rates. “One and two remain the same, the only difference is the name; three to nine lose one, it’s true, and for the rest you take off two.” Next is an illustration showing how 5 cents was worth the same as 6 pence, i.e., one 1 cent and two 2 cents were worth the same as 1 silver three-pence, two halfpennies and two pennies. No wonder people were confused then, especially when trying to convince them that three small copper coins were worth the same as a silver coin plus four large copper coins. Also shown was an Austrian **Maria Theresa thaler** restrike. About 600,000,000 restrikes are known. The 1780 Maria Theresa Silver Trade Coin is a non-currency coin that was created in 1780 in Austria. Austrian tradition allows the issue of commemorative coins when an emperor dies, which is one reason the Maria Theresa coin became so popular. Until 1858, the coin was still used as currency in many countries, and in 1857, the Emperor of Austria, Francis Joseph, declared the coin to be an official trade coin. It was over a year later that the coin actually stopped being used as currency in Austria. This coin is now only used as a collector's piece. There have been 14 mints over the years that have struck Maria Theresa Thalers, including Birmingham, Brussels, Bombay, London, Rome, Paris, Utrecht, Gunzburg, Hall, Kremnica, Karlsburg, Vienna, Prague, and Milan. The coin should contain 23.3890 grams of fine silver at 833.3/1000. **Mick** showed a thaler restrike together with an English **1900 silver trade dollar** for comparison.



Paul S. showed two white metal medals. The first, 40mm, mourns the death in 1801 of **Sir Ralph Abercrombie**, his portrait to left on the obverse, Britannia lying weeping before a tomb on the reverse. The second, 38mm, possibly by P. Kempson, mourns the death in 1818 of **Queen Charlotte**, consort of King Geo III, her portrait to left on the obverse, a funerary urn on a plinth within open wreath on the reverse.



Mark showed a ‘forget-me-not’ penny dating to World War 1. It is made from a George V penny with the reverse skimmed and punched crudely with: “**FORGET ME NOT/FROM FRED/WITH FOND LOVE/ TO/KITTY/2815**”

The penny is silvered and has an attached loop. **Frederick George Gifford**, Service Number 2815 was born in Exeter, South Australia in 1889 and enlisted in 1916. He listed his occupation as a Mechanical Engineer. His initial service was in France as a motorcyclist with the Australian Mechanical Transport Service. In early 1918 he attended a course as an artificer at the Tanks Corps Depot and in May shipped back to Australia. In August he was discharged from the AIF and immediately re-enlisted for service in Australia only. Upon re-enlistment he was taken on as part of the Australian Armoured Service Corps. He spent the rest of the war as part of the crew of *Grit*, a British MK IV tank numbered 4643. The tank toured Australia for several months in 1918 for promotional purposes including spending several days in Adelaide after the tank was shipped here with some difficulty by rail from Melbourne. **Catherine (Kitty) Pantzer** wrote a letter to the commander of Army Records in Melbourne in 1918 asking about the location of Fred. Presumably this is the same Kitty mentioned on the penny. The relationship between Kitty and Fred is unclear, but Fred married Ellen Maloney in Mount Gambier in 1922 so if it was a romantic one it did not last much past the end of the war. Fred lived out most of his life in Mount Gambier where he was a publican and a strong supporter of local sporting teams. He moved to Melbourne in the 1950’s and died in 1961. Of Kitty Pantzer we know little and further research is required.



David F. spoke about his recent visit to Finland via some sightseeing in Europe to attend “**Finlandia 2017**”, a European stamp exhibition that celebrated the centenary of the independence of Finland. The exhibition was part of the Finland 100 projects of the Finnish Council of State and was held in the Hall and the Postal Museum in Tampere, 24 to 28 May 2017. With 404 exhibits in 2248 frames, it was the largest philatelic event in Europe this year. Forty-one European countries participated, with Australia and the USA by invitation. David showed a large boxed medallion awarded to him; designed and sculpted by Pekka Rytönen (b. 1954) of Järvenpää, and titled “A postcard from Finland”, the medal was the result of a competition organised by Finlandia 2017 in cooperation with the Finnish Guild of Medal Arts. The obverse shows a postcard with stamps and philatelic tools as well as representing stamp collectors. The reverse shows an archipelago, echoing the Saimaa design of a 1930 definitive pictorial stamp. Images previous page.

Peter L. had attended the Port Adelaide Bottle and Collectables fair at the weekend and met Peter **MacMillan** from Victoria, a long time medallion collector, who was now specialising in medals produced by Emil Hafner.

Visitor Stephen introduced himself as President of the Melbourne Chapter of the International Banknote Society and member of the Royal Numismatic Society of NZ. He mentioned the coming numismatic conference “NZ 50”, and showed a proof copy of a book to be published, ***NZ Trading Banks and Early Paper Currency***, which should retail for about \$80. Stephen also hopes to publish a more detailed specialist book on NZ banks and their notes.

Visitor Bob introduced himself; his main interest is NZ specimen notes.



Virginia brought a satirical political “funny money” note featuring **Billy McMahon**, issued by the Seamen’s Union of Australia, and a 31 mm Australian bronze medal with loop, commemorating the **coronation of Geo. VI and Q. Elizabeth in 1937**.



Helen showed an Art Nouveau style lady’s golden mesh opera wristlet purse called a “**Beggars Bag**” that had been given to her. It has a gate or expandable snap top, and unlike purses today, has just enough room for a handkerchief, lipstick and compact. It was made in West Germany by Oroton, possibly in the 1950s.



Paul J. showed a **Corinth Silver Stater** circa 375-300 BC. (21.5mm, 8.39 g). Pegasos flying left who was (son of Poseidon and Medusa was a standard reverse for Corinth. Poseidon was the founder of Corinth) with koppa below Pegasos (Q is pronounced Koppa and was the system of Milesian Greek numerals, which had the value of 90). / On the reverse the head of Athena left, wearing a Corinthian helmet; E and bow behind.

The Corinthians developed the trireme which became the standard warship of the Mediterranean until the late Roman period. Corinth fought the first naval battle on record against the Hellenic city of Corcyra. The Corinthians were also known for their wealth due to their strategic location on the isthmus, through which all land traffic had to pass on route to the Peloponnese. Corinth was the first state to open places where people could trade their money for Corinthian money so people could pay for goods but the Corinthians charged for this service. Corinth made a great deal of money from their money exchange program, which helped Corinth to become one of the largest centres of trade in ancient Greece. Corinth was aligned with Sparta but after the Peloponnesian war they aligned themselves with Athens until the invasion of Rome. Pegasus was strongly tied to the mythology associated with Corinth and his appearance on its city's coinage led to the coins being called 'colts' or 'foals' in ancient times. The Corinthian stater or colt equaled a half Athenian Tetradrachm. This enabled Corinth's money to reach into the Athens sphere of influence.



Richard brought a boxed set of 35 bronze medals of the **Kings and Queens of England**, from William the Conqueror to George II, including Oliver Cromwell, produced by **Jean Dassier in 1820**. The series was first issued in **1731**.