



## The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

### NEWSLETTER 125 – June 2018.

**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 0407 792 220 or email [adelaidemint@bigpond.com](mailto:adelaidemint@bigpond.com)

Next meetings 19 July, 16 August, 20 September. 18 October, 15 November, 20 December.

**NSSA web page -- [sanumismatics.org.au](http://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](mailto: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. If no personal answer please try again later.

Annual membership **subscriptions** fall due in October 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.

## Meeting No. 942, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 19 April 2018

**Present:** 11 members, 18 apologies.

*Display cabinets for purchase:* The president advised that he had converted three display cabinets suitably hinged and locked for members and suggested that it may be necessary to obtain another 10.

*Australian Postcard Society Show 5-6 May 2018:* Members to assist man the NSSA stand at this Show.

Email from Numismatic Association of Victoria advising new website and email address.

**NAA Report:** The Secretary advised that the NAA Journal No 28 was expected to be finalised for setting and printing in May. The Secretary reported on the proceedings at the NAA AGM on 16 Apr 18 and advised that as the cost of preparation and typesetting of the Journal costs the NAA approx \$4000- each year and, now, that it is mainly provided to Societies digitally, Societies are no longer meeting any of the costs towards producing the Journal. With sponsors only covering about half of these costs, it was necessary for Societies to assist meet the shortfall and it was passed that each sponsoring society of the NAA pay \$500 annually and that each would receive in addition to the digital version, 10 free printed copies of the Journal to sell or distribute as they think fit. In the case of the NSSA, this would relate to an annual cost to the NSSA of approx \$250 pa. It was moved and carried that the NSSA would contribute \$500 annually to the NAA to meet the production costs and to receive 10 printed copies of the Journal each year. Carried.

The President raised the fact that now the NSSA was involved in a number of Coin Shows, was affiliated with the SA Philatelic Council and was involved in a number of associated events, these matters and others, with possible financial implications, should be incorporated into the Society's By-Laws as per the Constitution. The Secretary advised that he would contact Colin and Maurice and enquire if they had copies of the By-Laws, as no By-Laws had been passed in to him by the previous Secretary. *Purchase and donation of Peter's book, "The Coin Cabinet" to the SA History Trust:* As a recognition of the scholarship of this important history of the Numismatic Collection of the Art Gallery of SA and to cement the NSSA's support of the History Trust of South Australia, it was moved and carried that the Society purchase a book costing \$50 and present this with a suitably inscribed notation to the History Trust during History Month.



**Mick** showed a series of images of uncashed cheques made out to him by friends and colleagues for 20 cents and in three instances from 10 million to 100 billion dollars. Many of the banks have since changed and some of the writers have since passed away. Further "autographs" welcome. The full story will be in June CAB and his previous talk on bank name altered cheques will be in the May CAB. He also showed some images of two mistruck coins in the Noble auction, which sold for \$1300 and \$2100 and an article from the IBNS journal about private banknotes in the British Library, which have been mis-described.



**A member** showed a) a Snowden Boys Society Anti-Cigarette badge in vitreous enamel, displaying a white cross in a circle of red in the centre with blue surround, b) a 2CH Radio Station Cooee Club badge featuring Luna Park; c) a metal ring with a triangle shaped like a tree in its centre with “RUBY BE SURE” stamped on one side and “BE CAREFUL” stamped on the other side; d) a book “Coins of the World” by Sandra Forty.

**Robert** showed a 1967 Australian mistruck 2 cents coin.

**Helen** showed a coin that was minted by the Perth Mint in 2015 and showing initials AH for Aleysha Howarth, designer. The coin is 45.5 mm in diameter, 6mm thickness and weighs 62.27g. She stated, “With a maximum mintage of 2,500 this \$2.00, 2oz silver coin she found quite intriguing as it is a small antique clock in a display case! Illustrated top right.

“British born author, Lewis Carroll, first published ‘Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland’ in 1865 and coin clocks were produced to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this book, which became an overwhelming literary and commercial success and which he continued with ‘Through the Looking Glass’ and ‘What Alice Found There’, being published in 1871.

“The clock represents the White Rabbit, wearing his waistcoat and carrying a pocket watch, running past Alice and murmuring ‘Oh Dear! Oh Dear! I shall be late’. Alice follows him down the rabbit hole where she finds herself in Wonderland.

“On the back of the clock in spiral form there is a quote from the book which reads ‘Oh my ears and whiskers, how late it’s getting!’

“This amazing book has been translated into over 170 different languages and the story being adapted for television, film & theatre. The coins have been individually ‘antiqued’ to give a unique aged look and, as a result, no two coins are the same.”





**Richard** showed eight ship-related coins, medals, badges etc: a) Queen Anne 1702-1718 silver medalet lucky charm “LUCK TO YOUR SHIP”; b) Germany 1914 Battle of Coronel (Sth America) medal featuring Admiral Graf Von Spee on obv.; c) 1917 Navy Day Adelaide metal fundraising badge; d) WW1 British Naval Long Service & Good Conduct medal with ribbon; e) Hoyts Theatres Ltd HMAS Sydney II badge; f) HMAS Australia (WW1 Battle Cruiser) postcard; g) HMAS Voyager (sunk after collision with HMAS Melbourne) medal; h) SMS Emden 100 pfenig aluminium canteen token 1900-1914. He also displayed 9 British, Australian and German model warships that he had made.



**Kathryn** advised that the designer of Australia’s decimal coins, Stuart Devlin, had passed away on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2018 aged 86. She brought to the meeting to show members a large book showcasing his life’s work titled “Stuart Devlin, Designer, Goldsmith, Silversmith”, which had recently been published by his wife.

**Mark** showed a George V copper penny love token engraved on the reverse “XXXX FORGET ME NOT WITH FONDEST XXX TO X LOVE X LOUIE XX FROM X CHARLES XX”.

**NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**



**Australia's Only Private Banking & Currency Museum 1988-2008**



The Banking & Currency Museum, Kadina (Numismatic Society of South Australia)

Well known collector, historian, radio commentator on coins and banknotes, writer and publisher of over 100 reference books, Mick Vort-Ronald, will give a comprehensive and illustrated address on the genesis, evolution, operation and displays of his unique Banking & Currency Museum (Australia's only private currency museum), which operated in Kadina, South Australia from 1988 to 2008. Mick is a world renowned authority on Australian banknotes and in recognition of his contribution to numismatics, he was recently inducted into the Hall of Fame of the International Banknote Society in the USA

Bookings not required



*History Trust website.*

**Meeting No. 943, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 17 May 2018 (History Festival Meeting).**

Meeting Commenced at 8.00pm. Present 15 members, 14 apologies, 10 visitors.

Minutes of Previous Meeting and normal Business of the meeting was suspended until next meeting to allow the Society's History Festival lecture to be conducted.

**The President** welcomed visitors and members to the meeting as follows:

Good evening and welcome to meeting number 943 of the Numismatic Society of South Australia. My name is Neil and I extend a particular welcome to the visitors who are with us and those who have come a long way tonight. This is an official meeting of the Society, but we are suspending most of the normal monthly agenda items. We are also incorporating a special presentation by our member, Mick Vort-Ronald, for South Australia's History Festival. Mick will be talking about Australia's Only Private Banking & Currency Museum.

For the benefit of visitors, I would like to say a few words about the Numismatic Society of South Australia. It was incorporated in 1926 by numismatists of the South Australian Museum. It has held its regular monthly meetings within this precinct behind the main museum building, in the original Army Barracks Building and, for at least a quarter of a century, in these Royal Society Rooms.

The Numismatic Society of South Australia is a learned body which publishes a quarterly newsletter and is a member of the National body – the Numismatic Association of Australia.

Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month. A big part of meetings is where Members are invited to show and talk about numismatic items they have acquired - coins, currency notes, medals, medallions, badges, pins and other similar objects.

We have held Coin Fairs in December 2016 and November 2017 at the Drill Hall on Torrens Parade Grounds where a large number of local and interstate dealers have attended. We intend this to be an annual event to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in November each year.

Membership of the Society costs just \$30 per year and is open to all persons interested in collecting and learning about numismatics. If you are interested in joining the Society, please see our Secretary, Barrie, Treasurer, Mick or myself. I now ask Barrie to introduce our guest speaker.

**The Secretary** introduced Mick Vort-Ronald as follows:

We are delighted that, once again, one of our own members is to give our History Festival address this evening. Mick Vort-Ronald has been a member of The Numismatic Society of South Australia for over 36 years, has been our President on a number of occasions, is a Fellow of the Society and is currently our Treasurer.

Mick is a retired S.A. Police Officer and is an acknowledged collector and authority on Australian Banknotes. He has written over 100 reference books on banknotes, Australian banks, coins, gems and other collectables, has been interviewed on radio on numerous occasions and owned and ran the Banking and Currency Museum at Kadina for over 20 years.

His topic this evening is: The genesis, evolution and operation of the unique Banking and Currency Museum at Kadina. Please welcome Mick Vort-Ronald.

**Mick Vort-Ronald:** gave an illustrated address about the genesis of the Banking and Currency Museum 1988-2008. His collecting began as a seven year-old in the Adelaide Children's Hospital where he spent seven weeks with a burst appendix. While there he began to collect stamps discarded by another patient. As a boy scout (later Queen Scout) he picked up a quartz crystal from near Mt. Bold Reservoir, became a mineral collector, is currently president of the Mineralogy Society of SA (six times) and has been president of the Adelaide Gem and Mineral Club 11 times.

He joined the S.A. Police Force in 1960 and after graduating was stationed at Adelaide, Whyalla, Angaston, Swan Reach, Port Pirie, Whyalla and Mannum, the last two as a sergeant. While off duty, he collected coins before decimal changeover "for his children" and ended up specialising in Australian banknotes. He began to collect bank signs in the 1970s after purchasing two Bank of Adelaide counter signs for \$4 at the liquidation auction of coin dealer Franz Kempf. His first museum of mainly gems and minerals was in a spare room at the Swan Reach Police Station, where he resided from 1972-1977. Admission was free and 1,500 visitors signed the visitors' book.

He sold his collections to help pay for the publication of his first book in 1979 and has now written and self-published over 110 books, with topics including banknotes, cheques, moneyboxes, bank branch, police station and family histories and is currently working on five more books on banknotes, minerals and the Adelaide Clearing House.

His collecting extended to bank doors and windows and memorabilia. After he sold his banknote collection through Spink Auctions in Sydney in 1988 for \$332,000 he resigned from the police force after 28 years, purchased a two-storey ex bank building (built 1873) in Kadina and established his Banking and Currency Museum, which he operated for 20 years.

In the museum he displayed nearly every aspect of numismatics and also his gem and mineral collection, winning numerous regional tourism awards. Numismatics included Australian coins, banknote errors, shipwreck coins, medals, tokens etc., 3,000 moneyboxes and a wide range of banking memorabilia. For more information see website [www.yp-connect.net/~vortronald](http://www.yp-connect.net/~vortronald)

He "retired" from the museum in 2008 aged 65 years, auctioned his collections, sold the building and moved to Gawler where he continues with his research and writing. Mick has been a monthly writer for coin magazines for 43 years and was inducted into the International Bank Note Society Hall of Fame in the USA in 2017. A 15-piece "souvenir kit" of museum tickets, cheques and political funny money was given to each person present at his talk.

The President thanked Mick for his fine address and called on Peter L. to remind everyone of the Art Gallery of SA's Queen Adelaide/William IV History Festival exhibition which features medallions displayed from our member, Paul S.'s collection.

### **Meeting No. 944, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 21 June 2018**

Meeting Commenced at 7.45pm **Present:** 12 members, 1 visitor and 17 apologies.

*SA History Festival – 17 May meeting:* Follow-up: The President congratulated Mick Vort-Ronald on his fine presentation (acclamation) and stated that with 15 members and 10 visitors attending (4 more than last year) the activity was a great success. It was agreed that this should be an annual event for the Society and we will need to look for a presenter for our 2019 event. The Secretary advised that he had contacted each of the visitors by email and had a response from 2 of them (neither wished to join the Society) and that our visitor for tonight's meeting, Claire, had attended our History Festival meeting. The Secretary also advised that he had presented the CEO of the History Trust of SA with Peter's book *The Coin Cabinet*, as approved at the April meeting, in recognition of the Trust's support, with a suitably inscribed notation pasted therein.

*Display cabinets for purchase:* The president advised that he had obtained the last available 5 display cabinets, to which he had affixed hinges and locks for members and all had been allocated.

*NSSA Coin & Banknote Expo17-18 Nov 2018:* A sub-committee comprising the President, Secretary, Richard, Paul and Helen was appointed to assist in organising this event. The next meeting of the sub-committee to be held at 7pm on 19 July.

*Preparation of Draft By-Laws:* It was agreed that the Secretary prepare a draft set of By-Laws for submission to members along with a copy of the Constitution, to be made available to all members.

**NAA Report:** The Secretary advised that the NAA Journal No 28 had been finalised for setting and was about to be placed on the NAA website. Printed copies @ \$20ea plus postage will be made available to those wishing to purchase a complete Journal in colour. Quantities to be determined following receipt of orders from sponsoring societies – NSSA members: 9.

*Airmail Society Congress & Stamp/Coin Show – TTD 6-7 Oct 2018:* It was agreed that the NSSA would support this Show by having a Display table – cost approx \$40-



**Michael** showed a Greek silver drachm c450-400BC found in a hoard in 1980, obv. features a horse and the rev. a horse and a boy.





**Richard** showed a) gold daric Persia, Achaemenid Empire, temp. Artaxerxes II to Darius III c375-336BC, obv. bearded Persian king or hero wearing kidaris and kandys, quiver over shoulder, in kneeling-running stance, holding spear in right hand, bow in left, Lydo-Milesian standard, rev. patterned incuse punch (Sardes mint, 14mm, 8.33g); b) silver tetradrachm Macedon, Chalkidian League c370BC, obv. laureate head of Apollo (L), rev. Kithara (harp) within incuse square (Olynthos mint, 25mm, 14.4g); c) silver tetradrachm Kings of Parthia, Gotarzes II c40-51AD, obv. diademed bust (L), rev. Gotarzes seated (R) receiving wreath from Tyche standing (L) “ENT” above (year), (Seleukeia on the Tigris mint, 29mm, 13.75g). He advised “The Parthians and Sassanians (modern Iraq and Iran area) were opponents of Rome for many years in ancient times and several times annihilated Roman armies, just another example of the fact that the East-West rivalry is nothing new; it has been going on for thousands of years. The Parthians were particularly famous for their archery and horseback skills. The ‘Parthian Shot’ was a final volley of arrows before breaking contact and has become the ‘parting shot’ in modern English usage. The Sassanians, who succeeded the Parthians around 224AD, tried to obliterate all traces of them and Parthian coins are one of the few surviving links to this culture.



**Paul S.** showed a) bronze medallion obv. central figure of woman anointing heads of 2 farm workers with wording on surround: “THE HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND”, rev. “PRESENTED BY HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF RICHMOND AND GORDON” to “George Campbell Harthill for Best Shorthorn Aberdeen Show 1908” (48mm); b) silver medallion, head of Queen Victoria with “CENTENNIAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION MELBOURNE 1888” on surround, rev. wreath with Roman lettering inside (50mm); c) bronze medallion with obv. exactly the same as previous silver medallion, except rev. not struck and words “FIRST STRIKE” painted in red on blank reverse.



**A member** showed a Farrell scholarship silver medal, 41 x 47mm with bar attached to a loop, awarded by St Peter’s College (boys), Adelaide, to C.H. Pettit in 1874 (probably made by H Steiner, gold & silversmith, Adelaide).

St Peter’s College had two scholarships, the Farrell Clerical and the Farrell Open. The Farrell Open scholarship is the one that was awarded to C. H. Pettit in 1874 and comprised £50 and



the silver medal illustrated. Both scholarships were first awarded in 1870 and were instituted through a bequest in James Farrell's will. James Farrell was the second Anglican clergyman of the colony (1840) and the first Dean of Adelaide (1848–1869). He was a founder of St Peter's College and one of its three significant benefactors.

The Farrell Clerical is open to students who are sons of a Clergyman up to and including Year 10; the Farrell Open is open to existing students who are in Year 9 and 10. The last awards given were in 2003 for the Clerical and in 2009 for the Open.



**Dennis** showed a gift certificate in the form of a cheque drawn on The Bank of Adelaide, Truro SA Branch by Bric A Bank, utilising a slightly modified version of the Bank's "coin & note" logo and a 1947 Two Pence British duty stamp. He advised that Bric A Bank was building up its memorabilia to house a museum of The Bank of Adelaide's historical documents and relics in the old bank building at Truro.

**Robert** showed a 1926 Australian halfpenny which had damage on the rev. across the word "HALF" as if part of the metal had peeled away during striking. There was also some damage on the corresponding part of the obv.



**Claire** showed a) 1887 Sterling silver Queen Victoria English shilling; b) c1850s Sterling silver Eng Gothic florin (badly worn).



**Virginia** showed a) 1907 Edward VII sovereign (Perth Mint) and b) 1915 George V half-sovereign (Melb Mint), both coins separately mounted in protective rings and mounted for use as pendants or brooches.



**Mick** gave an illustrated talk about stamp duty on cheques for the various states from the late 1800s until duty was abolished in the 1980s. He showed various examples of interstate and overseas duty on cheques and gave a free sample to those present, a Whyalla Shipbuilding cheque from the 1970s with 10c NSW adhesive duty. A detailed article will be in the July CAB.



**Barrie** showed a) one of the last medallions produced by The Bank of Adelaide before it closed in 1979 – a gold-plated medallion for presentation to members attending the 1979 Cape Horners International Congress in Adelaide, obv. featuring a sailing ship in rough seas with much of its sails furled, rev. “Presented by The Bank of Adelaide” below the Bank’s logo(Allan J Olson, Adelaide 50mm); b) a Tonga “Coronation 4<sup>th</sup> July 1967” metallic 9 seniti airmail stamp featuring a silver aluminium replica of the 50 seniti Tonga coin; c) a Tonga “Coronation 4<sup>th</sup> July 1967” metallic 1 seniti postage stamp featuring a silver aluminium replica of the 20 seniti Tonga coin.

**Neil** showed the book “Taken by Storm” by Mervyn Eather and Bill Games which covers the story of HMAS Manoora, of which he spoke in his President’s Address in November 2017.

It is with much sadness that we report the sudden passing of Helen’s partner Ashley on 24 May, aged 50 years. Ten members of the Society attended his funeral service on 22 June.