



## The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

### NEWSLETTER 131 – December 2019.

**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 [secretary@sanumismatics.org.au](mailto:secretary@sanumismatics.org.au)

**NSSA web page -- [sanumismatics.org.au](http://sanumismatics.org.au)**

**Newsletter** edited and illustrated 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, [treasurer@sanumismatics.org.au](mailto:treasurer@sanumismatics.org.au) 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. Emailing preferred.

Annual membership **subscriptions** fall due in October each year, \$30 for members in Australia and overseas. They can also be paid by **EFT** to BSB 015 590 A/c 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 preferably sent by email 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. Most items were photographed by Mick at meetings.

**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.

**NEXT MEETINGS – please jot them down now in your diary and/or calendar.**

**7.45 pm Thursdays: 16 January, 20 February, 19 March, 16 April 2020.**

## Meeting No 960, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 17 October 2019

Present: 19 members, 20 apologies.

*Coin & Banknote Expo 16-17 Nov 2019:* Sub-Committee Chairman, Richard advised that the Royal Australian Mint would be attending, that 20 dealers had so far accepted and there would be an Expo Dinner at the Naval Military & Air Force Club on the Saturday evening (7.00pm for 7.30pm) with the CEO of the Royal Australian Mint as guest speaker. Members and partners are encouraged to attend that event. He advised that due to limitations of space in the Hall the planned Auction had been cancelled. Volunteers would be needed to assist with set-up and take-down and additional tables, including card tables will be required if members can provide these. Members who can assist for at least a full day will be eligible for a rebate on their annual subscriptions. Promotional flyers were made available for distribution at the meeting. Sub-Committee members to attend the President's work premises on Mon 4 Nov at 11am to prepare and fill show-bags.

*Proposal for changes to By-Laws to allow special fees for Junior and Family members:* Notice of Motion moved at the September meeting that the By-Laws be amended to include Junior Member and Family Membership in our By-Laws under By-Law 7.a) as By-Law "7.a).1. Subscribing Junior Member, under 18 years of age, as per a) above"; and, after amendment to include "living at the same address", By-Law "7.a).2. Subscribing Family Members living at the same address, as per a) above" was put at the meeting and passed, with one abstention.

*Nominations for Office Bearers 2019-2020:* The Secretary advised that he had received nominations for President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer unchanged from existing Office Bearers.

*NAA Report:* The Secretary advised that the AGM of the Numismatic Association of Australia will be held next year by skype via internet to save costs of having delegates attend in person.

*General Business: Door Prize:* October CAB was won by J W. *New Member:* Ronald M. having paid his subscription, was duly elected a member of the Society with acclamation.

### Numismatics:



Richard showed a) 1765 **Spanish "Piece of Eight"** .900 silver, 40mm; b) Roman coin of Nero AD64, bronze As, 25mm, obv. Image of Nero.





Helen advised that after experiencing **Hot-Air Ballooning** in the Barossa Valley she was influenced to visit the Hot-Air Ballooning Championships in Ireland in 1991 where 26 balloons from around the world competed. She showed the souvenir badges from that visit: a) vitreous enamel, Limerick-Ireland “Treaty 300” Balloon Festival 1991; b) vitreous enamel yellow balloon with green clover-leaf featured on balloon; c) vitreous enamel “21<sup>st</sup> Irish Ballooning Championships Lough Key Forest Park, Boyle. Images, previous page.



Paul J. showed 3 silver **Tudor Coins**: a) and b) England. Henry VII 1485-1509 silver pennies. York Mint, keys below shield penny, Durham Mint, Bishop Fox. Minting coins was one of the privileges of the Durham Prince Bishops as it showed their political autonomy and brought in significant revenue. Durham became a buffer zone for England between Northumbria and Scotland and this gave the Prince Bishops a lot of power. The Prince Bishops of Durham had the right to mint silver pennies and smaller denominations. This privilege remained until 1536 when Henry VIII had the mint closed. Durham was one of the three main mints belonging to religious establishments. The other two were the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, their coins minted with their initials; c) Elizabeth I, 1577 sixpence, Greek cross.



Robert showed a replica of a 1752 **Austrian gold ducat**.



Paul S. showed a silver medallion obv, “Presented by Sir James Matheson (Bart) of the Lews & Achany, MP, For the Counties of Ross & Cromarty”, rev. “To **David Mair, The Best Mathematical Scholar** in Tain Royal Academy at the Examination 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1862”.

Gerhard showed a 2019 \$1- Aust coin, one of 26 coins with one of the letters of the **alphabet**, issued by RAM in conjunction with Australia Post – this one with the letter “A” and postman on motor-bike on rev. The coins are only available when receiving change from purchases at Australia Post.

Kathryn discussed The **Great Aussie Coin Hunt** coins issued by RAM, randomly received in change.



Neil showed current **RAM 2019 coin issues**: a) 3 x \$1 coins under the title “Mutiny and Rebellion” featuring Mutiny on the Bounty in 1789, The Rum Rebellion in 1808 and The Eureka Stockade in 1854; b) a 50c coloured coin celebrating 90 years of The Ghan; c) a \$2 coloured coin with a “C” mintmark for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Police Remembrance Day on 29 September; this coin without the mintmark has been released into circulation; d) a \$2 coloured coin for the Wallabies Rugby Union Team circulated via Woolworths Supermarkets; e) a 50c coin for the carol “The 12 Days of Christmas” released in separate coloured gift cards – red, green, orange, blue or yellow, as decorations.

Mick talked about **OSTENSIBLY ORDINARY COINS**:

“1988 fifty cent pieces and 1992 one dollar coins would be described as “ordinary”.

“The 50c piece had the bicentenary ship design on the obverse and a one dollar coin with the mob of kangaroos design on the reverse is stated as not issued from 1989 to 1992.



“Recently a collector purchased a **1988 50c piece with the coat-of-arms reverse**, and a **1992 mob of roos dollar** for a five-figure sum each, from a dealer. The 50c piece is regarded as a “mule” and the 1992 roos \$1 coin is thought to be the only one in private hands.

Mick asked, “What, how or who decides is the true value of any supposed rare coin? A lot less if any more turn up!

“As an example, a dealer advertised a Collins/Allen ten shilling note on its website in August 2019 for \$4,500. Two months later, with an estimate of \$2,500, it sold in their auction for \$2,400 plus buyer’s premium. What is its true value? I know what I think, but you can draw your own conclusions”.

“On the other side of numismatics, a collector got very excited when he purchased a circulated **Phillips Wheeler Australia \$2 note** with the serial number **prefix HLG**. The note is regarded as a common issue, but the last prefix of that issue is unproven. This latest “discovery” is one of three found in what is believed to be from the last print run of HKN to HLP. Some believe HLP does not exist, so a dealer is offering a \$500 voucher for proof that it does. If \$500 is offered for a picture, what is the real value





of such a note if located? The story will appear in the November CAB.”

Mick also showed a copy of his **Australian Cheques** book published 10 years ago and advised he is working on a second edition to include cheques from the former Nicholson collection, some of which are appearing in the next Abacus auction. He would welcome donation of current cheques made out to him for 20c to help illustrate recent cheque types (none were received).

### **Meeting No. 961, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 21 November 2019**

**Present:** 24 members, 6 visitors, 13 apologies.

**NSSA Coin Show 16-17 Nov:** Richard advised that this year’s Expo was an outstanding success with record attendance and excellent support from the Royal Australian Mint and all stallholders, all of whom commented on the high quality of the Expo and superb organization in crowd control. He wanted to give special thanks and recognition to all those members who supported the activity and requested that their names be recorded in the Minutes: Special thanks were then given to Richard for his leadership and organization in ensuring the success of the Expo.

**President’s Award for Best Numismatic Presentation during year:** The President announced that Paul S. was the recipient of the award for his many interesting presentations on unique and quality British medallions that he had acquired during the year.

**President’s Report and Numismatic Address:** The President, Kathryn, gave a short Report highlighting the achievements of the Society during the past year, including the 2019 Coin & Banknote Expo which resulted in the Society having another strong surplus; the enthusiasm of members shown at the meetings; our membership steadily increasing to 65 members; our links with the History Trust and our involvement in the History Festival each year; having a social activity at Wohlers High Tea; holding a number of workshops during the year; and thanked those who had assisted in the running of the Society over the past year, particularly the Treasurer and the Secretary. She then presented her Numismatic Address on the many variations and types of flaws found in coins over the centuries. (Copies attached to Minutes). The Secretary gave a vote of thanks for her Report and Address, which was warmly received with appropriate acclamation.

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

President: Kathryn

Secretary: Barrie

Treasurer: Mick

Vice-Presidents: Helen and David.

Councillors: Richard, Peter L., Paul S., Paul J., Coral, Ray, Mark, Denis, Peter F., Terry, and Virginia, as previously.

NAA Representative and Public Officer: Barrie.

Editor of Newsletter and Occasional Journal: Mick. Auditor: Paul J.

**Determination of Subscriptions for ensuing year:** It was moved and carried that subscriptions remain at \$30 for Australian members and overseas members.

*Door Prize:* The Draw for the current CAB magazine (Nov Issue) was won by Peter L.

### Numismatics:



Dianne showed a number of coins that she had bought in the Market near the “**Bridge over the River Kwai**” in Thailand, an English halfpenny bought when visiting Lord Howe Is. and a number of fake (replica) coins she had picked up on overseas trips.



Paul J. showed a) 370-333BC **silver stater** Pamphylia, Aspendos (Asia Minor - located in south-southeastern Turkey) obv. Two naked athletes wrestling and grasping each other by the arms, rev. a slinger advancing, right, about to discharge his sling, trikeles before (spiral design representing three bent human legs) 23mm, 10.8g; b) 69-79AD **silver denarius**, obv. Vespasian, Rome mint, (18mm, 3.18g) issued 78AD, rev. eagle standing on altar with head facing right. Vespasian, born 9AD to the son of a tax gatherer, had good military skills which carried him to a series of important posts and he commanded part of the forces which invaded Britain in 43AD. In 67AD Nero appointed him to quell the Jewish rebellion and he successfully prosecuted the Jewish Wars in the troubled period following Nero’s death. Proclaimed Emperor by both the legions of Alexandria and Danube, Vespasian defeated the forces of Vitellius in the Battle of Cremona. He reached Rome in 70AD and quickly set about repairing the damage caused by the Civil Wars. He proved to be a just and industrious ruler and the condition of the State soon improved. He died on 24 June 79AD and was deified by the Senate; c) **1912 Sydney Mint George V gold half sovereign**; d) 1893 Melbourne Mint Queen Victoria (Jubilee head) gold sovereign.





Gerry showed two **Left Hand Club medallions**: a) Whyalla with a number 307 on rev. b) Kadina with number 26 on rev. and spoke about the peculiarities of the reasons behind the formation of such clubs. Images, previous page. He is keen to obtain further examples.



Mick illustrated **super-micro wording** on the beaks of birds in the top to bottom windows of the new Next Generation banknotes. The wording is less than half a mil high and he is trying to find someone who can photograph them with a microscope for an article in CAB. He showed an image of the new Next-Gen \$20 note purchased at the Expo on the weekend with what appeared to be **ATM withdrawal scratches** and warned members to be mindful of possible damages when purchasing notes.

He also illustrated a set of four **Aboriginal Blood-Money** notes. He first became aware of them when the RBA published a story about them in its magazine last June, stating that they had purchased them for display in their museum in Sydney. He emailed the artist Ryan Presley for images and permission to do a story in CAB but received no reply. A few weeks ago the artist set up his Blood-Money Exchange at the Art Gallery of SA. Mick made a special trip to Adelaide to purchase a set of the notes and seek permission from the artist to illustrate them in CAB. The artist was not there. Mick gave a CAB magazine to the attendant and asked him to give it to Presley with a request for him to contact Mick. He did not. The “notes” were sold at the “exchange rate” of 2.37 meaning a full set cost over \$400. A further \$200+ was spent obtaining a photo of the artist and the notes from *The Advertiser* for the CAB story. A book selling by the artist for \$25 about the “notes” was good value for money – it sold out at the gallery bookshop on the weekend. The “notes” are apparently not available by mail order as the “exchange rate” fluctuates, nor could the attendant say when and where the next exhibition would be for collectors to attend and buy their own “notes”. The surcharge is said to be the artist’s way of obtaining compensation for atrocities against aborigines in Australia’s 200s year history, with proceeds going towards helping young Aborigines. The full story will be in the December CAB.



Barrie showed two bronze medallions struck by The Adelaide Mint especially for **Aeropex 19**, one featuring the image of the Vickers Vimy on one side with the Aeropex 19 logo on the other side and one featuring the four flyers of the Vimy’s Epic Flight from England to Australia in 1919 on one side and the Aeropex 19 logo on the other side.



Richard showed two medallions struck to commemorate one of Australia's foremost pioneer aviators – **Herbert (Bert) Hinkler** AFC, DSM 1892-1933 and he discussed the many experiences and achievements of this famous Australian aviator.

Peter L. mentioned that the Art Gallery of South Australia had a display of **Sir Ross Smith's medals** and other memorabilia and that the David Roche Foundation also had a current medallic display.

Gerhard mentioned that he was interested in swapping any current **RAM alphabet coins** if members may have duplicates and asked could members check their collections for any available to swap. Members were invited to bring their spares to the next meeting for a swap session.

### CAB MAGAZINES

**I have managed to assemble an almost complete set of ACRs and CABs for John Mulhall, editor of CAB. Still needed are CABs 2001 July to November. If you can spare any of these it would be much appreciated, regards, Mick.**

**Meeting No 962, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 19 December 2019**

**Present:** 22 members, visitor Steve, 19 apologies.

**NAA Report:** The Secretary advised that the final draft of the Journal No 29 had been received and was with the typesetters. Copies of the Journal in digital format and printed copies expected to be available late January/early February.

**General Business:** *Door Prize:* Dec/Jan CAB was won by Denis and bottle of wine donated by A. K. was won by Peter L. *New Members:* Visitor Steve was duly elected a member of the Society with acclamation. (NOTE: the following new members were elected members of the Society at the November regular meeting but were inadvertently left out of the Minutes of that meeting. They applied for membership during the 2019 Coin & Banknote Expo having been duly proposed and seconded: John W., James H. and Akshay.)

### Numismatics:





David showed the antique silver medallion (38mm) produced by The Adelaide Mint, featuring the 4 Vickers Vimy flyers on the rev. and the **Aeropex 19** logo on the obv, that he received for his entry in the Special Non-competitive section at the recent Aeropex 19 held at the Torrens Drill Hall, Adelaide on 6-8 Dec. The theme for Aeropex 19 was the Epic Flight of **Sir Ross & Sir Keith Smith** from England to Australia in 1919, He also mentioned that Barrie, Secretary NSSA, had the only non-philatelic entry in Aeropex 19 for which he received a silver award. Copper version illustrated.



Mark showed a bronze medallion (38mm) featuring George V and Queen Mary on the obv. and the image of a soldier kneeling in front of Britannia and the inscription "**PAX 1919**" on the rev.



Paul S. showed a) a medal struck for the visit to Australia in 1901 by the **Duke & Duchess of York** at Federation, featuring their images in the centre section of the cross on the obv. and the words "FEDERATED AUSTRALIA 1901" on the rev. in the centre, and the separate 4 words "GOD SAVE THE KING" on each of the 4 sections of the cross; b) 3 separate certificates commemorating the visit of the Duke & Duchess of York to three Australian states and 1 certificate commemorating their visit to New Zealand; c) a coloured medallion featuring the image of film star, **John Wayne**; d) a .9999 silver (1oz) one dollar coin issued for **Tuvalu** with the Queen's effigy on obv.



A member showed a pewter or plated **Paramatta River tram travel pass**, diamond shaped with ring, issued early 1900s – obv. "P", "R", "S", "T" in the corners and a large "2" in the centre, and rev. "B 6 months 196".

Michael showed a bronze **Roman follis** coin cAD300 which had been silvered, images above.

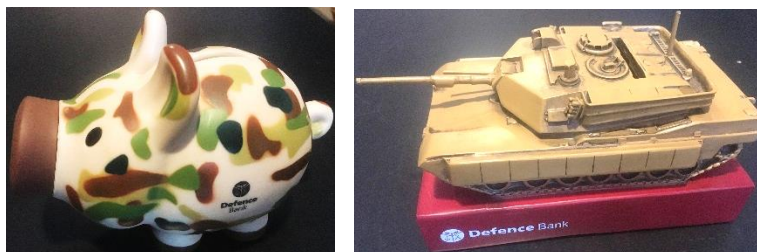


Paul J. showed a) ROME - **Marcus Aurelius**, (A.D. 161-180) Silver denarius. Issued 170AD, 19mm, 3.10 grams. Portrait of Emperor/Salus (She was the goddess of safety and well-being) standing to left. Born in A.D. 121, Hadrian gave the title of Caesar to Marcus Aurelius in A.D. 139. His succession to Emperor in A.D. 161 was smooth, although his reign was disturbed by many frontier wars and the legions returning from the Parthian War in A.D. 165 brought with them a plague. Marcus Aurelius spent much of the later period of his reign campaigning on the lower Danube and it was here that he wrote the celebrated "Meditations" (12 books of the *Meditations* as a source for his own guidance and self-improvement). Marcus Aurelius was immediately deified upon his death on 17th March A.D. 180. Unlike a lot of Roman Emperors he was a careful, generous and conscientious ruler and is best remembered for his devotion to Stoic philosophy. b) ROME - **Commodus** 177-192AD. Silver denarius, Rome mint, issued A.D. 186, (18mm, 2.59 g), obv. laureate head of Commodus to right, around M COMM ANT F PEL AVG BRIT, rev. around P M TR P XI IMP VII COS [V P P], Jupiter seated to left holding thunderbolt and sceptre.

Commodus was the son of Marcus Aurelius, born in A.D. 161. He was made co-emperor in A.D. 177 and accompanied his father to the second Germanic War. Upon becoming Emperor, Commodus concluded a peace treaty with the Germans and hurried back to Rome. Proved the most unworthy son of a noble father, he soon withdrew from public life leaving the administration of the Empire to a number of favourites. In later years, he seems to have become insane, fighting wild beasts in the amphitheatre, believing himself to be the re-incarnation of Hercules and demanding the worship of the people. After numerous plots against his life, he was eventually murdered on Dec 31 A.D. 192.



Richard showed a) RAM **2019 alphabet coins** for coin swap later during that evening and 4 baby coin sets; b) large bronze and silver medallions featuring **Sir Charles Kingsford Smith** Aviator on obv. and his Southern Cross aircraft on rev. with wording "TRANS PACIFIC-TRANS TASMAN-TRANS ATLANTIC" and spoke in detail of his aviation exploits and life.



Neil showed two **Defence Bank money boxes** a) pig in Army camouflage colours, b) Army tank. Mick showed his recent updated books "Australian **Banknote Errors**" 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition up to Dec 2019 200pp; "Australian **Banknote Sales**" Vol 15 2019 132pp and his recent book on "Australian Cheques" 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 372pp.



NSSA COIN SHOW NOVEMBER 2019 and talk by the C.E.O. of the Royal Australian Mint on the Saturday night at the Naval Military & Air Force Club. *Top photo Kathryn/Mark, others Allan K.*

