



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 132 – March 2020.

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 0407 792 220 or email secretary@sanumismatics.org.au

NSSA web page -- 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 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.

March 2020 meeting cancelled due to virus concerns

NEXT MEETING 7.45 pm Thursday 16 April 2020.

Meeting No 963, Royal Society Room, Adelaide 16 January 2020

Present: 18 members, 27 apologies.

Door Prize: Vickers Vimy Epic Flight Centenary bronze medallion, donated by Barrie was won by Stephen.

History Festival May Meeting: With the general theme of the Festival being “Change”, discussion centred around major changes in Australia’s currency – Decimal Currency introduced in 1966, Various changes in design of our currency. The President agreed that she would prepare a suitable topic relating to change in Australian currency for the NSSA to present at this year’s Festival May meeting;

New Member: An on-line application for membership had been received to join the Society, together with payment of \$30. He apparently lives in Pt Lincoln and, although the Secretary has tried to contact him by telephone and left messages, there has been no further contact. The Secretary to send a follow-up email, as, in terms of our By-Laws the applicant is required to meet members either at a regular meeting or at a Coin event, for proposers to assess the applicant as suitable for membership;

Monthly Workshops:

It was decided to re-introduce our Monthly Workshops that had been suspended during preparations for our 2019 Coin & Banknote Expo: February Workshop – Kathryn “Error Coins & Mistrikes”, March Workshop – Peter L. “Curating Coins for the Art Gallery/Museums”, April Workshop – Paul S. “Early British Medallions”. The Workshops will commence at 7pm and run for approx. half an hour.

Numismatics:



Richard advised that the **Bank of England** was established in 1694 to raise funds for the Navy, which needed to be rebuilt after naval defeats by France. 1.2 million pounds were raised in 12 days, interest of 8% being paid. The establishment of the Bank was devised by Charles Montague, First Earl of Halifax and was originally built in Walbrook on a street in London on the site of a Roman temple.

The Bank moved to its current site in Threadneedle Street in 1734. George Washington was a shareholder of the Bank during the US War of Independence. The Bank produced currency in the period 1790s to 1815. Initially, Spanish money was used and in 1804 dollars and half dollars were counterstruck with Bank of England design, and in 1811 to 1815 a token series was issued.

He showed a) 1804 Spanish dollar (piece of eight) overstruck, five shillings, b) 1775 Spanish half dollar counterstamped George III in centre (half crown), c) 1811 one shilling and sixpence token, d) 1812 three shillings token.



Paul J. showed 3 silver coins a) FRANCE, Provincial, Normandie. Richard I Sans Peur (the Fearless) 943-966, Great Grandfather of William the Conqueror.

This is a silver Denier (20mm, 1.36 g) (silver was the basis for Frankish coinage from the late seventh century and in English it is sometimes referred to as a silver penny) Rouen mint (The mint of Rouen dates back to Roman times and remained active until 1858).

Cross pattée (this cross is similar to the Knights Templar cross) with pellet in each quarter / Temple façade; in center, cross of Saint André (which is now used to describe a commune in the south of France) with pellet in each quarter.

Richard was the son of William I Longsword and grandson of the Viking chieftain Rollo who founded the duchy. Richard faced many wars with neighbouring duchies but in 965 he made peace with his neighbours. Richard then consolidated his rule by making Family alliances with Scandinavian tribes. Richard gained support from Rome as he promoted Christianity and built a few churches.

Richard married Gunnor and they had Richard II le Bon, and Emma of Normandy. Through Emma's marriage to two kings of England, Aethelred II the Unready and Cnut the Great, Richard was grandfather of the English kings Harthacnute and Edward the Confessor. Through his son, Richard II, Richard was the great-grandfather of William 'the Conqueror'.

b) FRANCE, Lorraine (duchy) 1508-1544 Billon Sol de guerre (20mm, 1.07 g.) Antoine le Bon (the Good) during his rule he fought the Italians, destroyed the peasant revolt and destroyed a Protestant revolution and issued many edicts halting Protestantism.

These hammered coins were composed of billon (an alloy of silver and copper) and consisted of both regal issues as well as regional coinage issued by local ecclesiastical or feudal lords. According to an edict of June 1640, these older worn coins were authorized to be counter stamped with a punch displaying a fleur-de-lys within a beaded oval. Nancy mint. Crowned coat-of-arms / Sword De Saulcy pl

c) TIBET; 1894-1912, Billon Tangka, 28mm, 5.5 grams.

Tangkas have legends in the rarely used Lantsa script (also called Rañjana script) which has its origin in Nepal. Most probably they were originally struck for ceremonial purposes by Nepalese who were residing in Lhasa, but eventually entered into general circulation. Some have Tibetan cyclic dates like 15-28, 15-40, 15-46 (= AD 1894, 1906 and 1912), while others bear meaningless dates. Their legends can be read with some difficulty and seem to represent mantras.



Paul S. showed a) 1939 silver medallion **George VI and Elizabeth** tour of Canada by train (33mm); b) Canadian postage stamps and covers issued during this Tour; c) 1916 **Battle of Jutland** medallion – one of the major sea battles of WWI; d) cloth memento of the Battle.



Stephen showed a bronze token with Figure “1” within a wreath. on both sides.



Helen showed a number of coins from **South Africa** and neighbouring provinces – 1, 2, 5, 10 rand and 50c (bird of paradise design).



Charity zero note.

Specimen note.

Mick discussed ZERO BANKNOTES: During the printing of banknotes in sheets, the serial numbering in the last three decades commenced at 999999 and ended at 000000 for each one million sheets. The 000000 sheets were later destroyed.

From 1993 the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia has donated a zero sheet from the previous year to auction for charity.

The first of these was the polymer \$5 in 1993 containing all notes with the number AA00 000000. This was followed in successive years with the \$10 to \$100, all notes having numbers AA, the year, and all zeros.

Sheets thereafter were at random, depending on what denomination was printed that year and notes then had numbers AA, AB, AC etc, still with the year of printing and zero numbers.

Dealers purchased the early sheets and cut them into singles, except for the occasional pairs, and a block of four with hand-signed signatures of the signatories. During the boom days of 15 years ago, some of the singles were advertised for sale for up to \$30,000 each.

Last year, a couple of lower denominations sold at auction for as little as \$550 each plus buyers' premiums. These notes he calls charity zero banknotes. He bought his first charity note at auction last year from Wolf Blass at around \$1,300.

Specimen notes with zero serial numbers are worth a lot more, which is why some sellers or auctions still advertise them as specimens. THEY ARE NOT. Specimen notes are "sample" notes, still with zero serial numbers, but overprinted in red SPECIMEN on one side and SPECIMEN on the other with a separate specimen number. The full story will be in the February CAB.

Meeting No 964, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 20 February 2020

Present: 18 members, 21 apologies.

Business arising from Minutes: *History Festival May Meeting topic:* general discussion re final wording of topic for publication by SA History Trust to be finalized by Secretary in conjunction with President and presenters; *Workshops for March and April:* March Workshop to be presented by Peter L. Topic: Curating Coins for the Art Gallery/Museums and April Workshop to be presented by Paul S. – Topic: Early British Medallions. There would be no Workshop for May (History Festival meeting) and the June Workshop would be presented by David – Topic: Collecting Other Ephemera Items.

NAA Report: The Secretary advised that Journal No 29 had been finalized and was expected to be lodged on the NAA website in a few weeks by the webmaster. A total of 80 Printed copies of the Journal were expected to be received for distribution to those who had placed orders for a printed copy in the next few days. (10 copies allocated to the NSSA) Cost \$25 per copy plus postage.

Door Prize: Feb 2020 CAB was won by Richard, bottle of wine donated by Robert was won by Mark.

February Workshop: 15 members attended the February Workshop held immediately prior to this meeting. An excellent presentation was given by our President, Kathryn Topic: "**Error Coins and Mistrikes**" with many detailed examples in power-point colour and description. Many questions were asked and it proved of immense interest. A vote of thanks was given by the Secretary supported by acclamation.

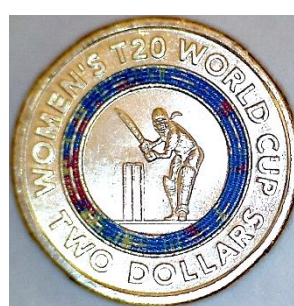
Numismatics:



Mick discussed the topic “**Buyer beware!**” and showed and discussed three banknotes on eBay this week, which have been subjects of human interference: a) A new Generation \$5 with the **head of The Queen missing**, likely to have been attacked with solvent and advertised for \$750 as a printing error. Probable value \$4.99; b) A paper \$5 note with **green** shading, the result of being bleached, with an asking price of \$300, but worth only \$4.99; c) A **split ten-shilling** note, advertised for \$200. Splitting is illegal and commonly occurred in very worn notes. Each half is regarded as a forgery.



He also mentioned that Neil showed a **Defence Bank** pig and tank moneybox last month. The tank moneybox has sold out, but there are still four varieties of the camouflaged pig moneybox available for \$12 each, army, navy, air force and children’s. Also still available are Defence Bank warship and aircraft moneyboxes at a cost of \$25 each, with the proceeds going to aid Defence Community Dogs. The two Defence Bank branches in S.A. are at Keswick and Edinburgh.



Stephen showed a) an 1850s bronze trade token, rev. “J E **Deagan Druggist & Grocer**, Parade Corner of High Street, Plymouth”, obv. “The Right Hon Sir Rbt Peel Bart” and his image. Such as used by merchants to provide small change; b) 2020 Aust \$2- coin, **Women’s T20 World Cup**.

Gerhard showed a 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games proof \$10 coin .925 silver.



Robert showed a) 1967 Aust **2 cents mistrike** (broadstrike); b) 1926 Aust halfpenny planchet flaw.



Helen showed a 2008 **Congo** 10 francs featuring **Mt Kilimanjaro** and two lions, gold, 11mm.

A member challenged members present to identify the country of issue of two ‘golden crowns’ advertised in two separate full-page newspaper advertisements by the Bradford Exchange of Parramatta, NSW. One ‘crown’ commemorates the **75th anniversary of HMAS Sydney II**; for credibility the issue is ‘Endorsed by the Defence Force Welfare Association of Australia’ alongside their official badge. The second crown celebrates Queen Elizabeth II and features the official UK Royal Arms.

But nowhere is the country of issue of either crown made apparent. To the uninformed and unwary these two crowns are obviously either Australian or English. Most informed numismatists would realise, of course, that these are just **medallions featuring rather clumsy portraits of the Queen**. But only some of our meeting members knew the name of the country involved—both crowns were issued in the name of **Tristan da Cunha**, a tiny British Protectorate island in the Atlantic Ocean midway between South Africa and South America, boasting a population of approximately 247.

Layered in pure gold each crown mintage is limited to 9,999 worldwide. The identity of the island is in fact shown on both obverses, but only fractionally so, and had to be guessed at—the name has been intentionally obscured by partly overlapping the obverse with the reverse.

So, what are we to make of this apparent marketing subterfuge? Most sensible people would probably shrug this off as clever marketing and apply the old adage ‘caveat emptor’. These are simply medallions and not crowns and certainly nobody’s legal currency, but there are probably royalties to be gained by the country and the organisations named.



He also, showed a brooch made from an English **Queen Victoria silver half crown** dated some time from 1883 to 1887. The coin has been extensively and skilfully fret cut, leaving intact part of the border of the central shield, the open wreath, the crown at the top and the rose design at the bottom. In the centre are two large letters, W L, presumably the initials of the person to whom the brooch was intended. Below is a horseshoe, upside down, an oddity because, to those who take seriously the symbolism of horse shoes, this would indicate that the “luck” would pour out and be lost. The reverse of the coin has been smoothed and a brooch clasp attached.



Sheridan



Mt. Lyall Mining & Railway



Paul S. showed a bronze advertising medallion for the badge and medal makers, **Sheridans of Perth** produced in the 40s or 50s. On the obv. it features the names “SHERIDANS” in the centre with a “C” above and a “4” below (representing “See Sheridans for”) and on the surround all the items that they produce – club badges, press tools, porcelain enameling, metal stamping, stencils, buttons, medals, plaques and similarly, with more on the reverse.



Richard showed items that he recently obtained while visiting Tasmania: a) 1883 “O” US **Morgan silver dollar**; b) 1827 GB **George IV penny**; c) 1897 **Mt Lyall Mining & Railway Co tokens** in VF and EF and gave a short history of the Tasmanian Mount Lyall Mining and Railway Company from its inception in 1893 mining copper until its closure in 1994. He also mentioned its operations of an Abt rack system of cog railway, which was rebuilt as the Abt Wilderness Railway as a tourist attraction until 2013. Two images centre right.

Neil showed a **1956 Melbourne Olympics Badge** featuring the kangaroo and emu either side of a map of Australia with the Olympic rings and a boomerang with the date 1956 at the base (last image above).