



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 135 – December 2020.

Society meetings have resumed on the **3rd Thursday** of the month, in the Royal Society Room behind the S. A. Museum off Kintore Avenue, Adelaide from 7.45 pm., supper afterwards, visitors welcome. **Postal address** P.O. Box 2183, Kent Town S.A. 5071. For information, contact the 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

Annual membership **subscriptions now fall due in January** 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 email 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 – 21 January, 18 February, AGM 18 March, 15 April, 20 May onwards.

Meeting No 968 held at the Armoury Gallery, Adelaide, on 15 October 2020.

Present: 21 members, 23 apologies. Visitors: Chris and Russell.

Business arising from Minutes: *Workshops October-December*: Future Workshops would be considered subject to Expo Sub-committee meetings.

A Workshop, conducted by Peter L. was held at 7pm immediately prior to the meeting. Topic: Curating Coins for the Art Gallery of South Australia. 14 members attended this interesting and detailed (power-point) workshop. A vote of thanks was given by the Secretary

Special Resolution to Alter the Constitution and By-Laws: The Secretary advised that he had lodged the Application for Registration to Alter the Rules of the Constitution with Consumer & Business Services, Adelaide and that the Fee was \$74.50.

Correspondence: Usual catalogues and newsletters from affiliated societies on-sent to members by email, others tabled at the meeting are offered to members and visitors to take.

NAA Report: The Secretary advised that there were still printed copies of Journal No 29 available for sale and that the forthcoming AGM was to be held by ZOOM on 25.,10.20.

General Business:

Door Prizes: October 2020 CAB was won by Hardeep, and 2 bottles of wine donated by him were won by D. I. and Peter L.

Suggestion to hold Bourse for members before a regular meeting: Richard proposed that the NSSA should consider holding a Bourse for members to buy/sell numismatic items before a regular meeting, following the cancellation of our November Coin & Banknote Expo due to the COVID 19 crisis. Members expressed much interest in having such an activity and it was moved and carried that a Bourse be held at 7pm before the next meeting to be held on 19 November 2020.

Numismatics:



Richard showed 5 “Gold-Rush” tokens/coins: a) 1870 Sydney Mint gold sovereign; b) 1874 one penny token issued by John Henderson, Pawnbroker, Pakenham Street, Fremantle WA; c) 1860s One penny token issued by T F Merry & Co, General Merchants, Toowoomba Qld; d) 1861 half penny token issued by Robert Hyde & Co, General Marine Store, Melbourne Vic; e) 1861 silver GB one shilling Queen Victoria.



Gerry showed a) well-worn 1966 Aust 50c piece; b) 1667 bronze half penny trade token issued by John Wright, Blackwater Inn (21mm).



Paul S. showed two Freemasons lodge jewels a) obv. Image of Queen Victoria, rev. “ALBERT EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES GM JUNE 21, 1887” [Note GM is Grand Master]; b) Jewel issued by Lodge of Charity, Umballa [India] No 563 EC [Note EC is English Constitution].



A member showed 4 SA Railways Time and Tally discs.

- SA Railways Tally Disc. MECH ÷ BRANCH ↑ S.A.R ↑ large hole. 39mm brass, uniface.
- SA Railways Pay Disc. MECH ÷ BRANCH ↑ S.A.R ↑ Punched number traced in red paint, large hole. 39mm chromed brass, uniface.
- A 35-mm numbered brass disc without any lettering, with what looks like a shadow of a rim impression. Said to be a *Tally Disc* for use in the Islington workshop. Did the dies for the image eventually wear out?
- SA Railways Check. LOCO^{AND} CARG^{DEPT} ↑. Punched number 1438 traced in red paint; 36mm chromed brass, large hole. Uniface. The N in AND is retrograde. These chromed checks were not from the Islington workshops and may have been from the Adelaide Locomotive works. Workshop and purpose as yet unknown.

Brass *Time Checks* or *Tally Disc* and chrome plated *Pay Checks* or *Pay Discs* were used in the workshops of the South Australian Railways, at Islington on Churchill Road.

The brass tally discs were hung on nails or hooks on a large board displaying the disc's corresponding number on a metal tag behind the hook.

Each worker had his own tally disc. Each morning when he arrived at the workshops the worker would remove his tally disc from its hook on the tally board, and keep it in his pocket or on a nail by his workbench during the day. Clock-on time was 8 am; at lunchtime, about 12 noon, he replaced the disc on its hook and removed it again end of lunch at about 1 pm, until knock-off time at 4:30 pm, when he replaced the disc on the board. Their "boss" or supervisor recorded late times as well as toilet breaks via the worker's tally disc number. Pay was adjusted in increments of 6 minutes. The tally board had a hinged folding cover and, with the discs in place, was padlocked overnight and unlocked again next morning. If a disc had not been replaced at the end of the day then the supervisor assumed that the worker was still somewhere in the workshops and was then looked for. On one occasion a worker had not returned his disc and subsequently was found to have died "on the job"—actually he was found dead in the toilet. The tally disc number served as identification and, for example, was used for borrowing tools from the workshop.

The chrome-plated *Pay Checks* or *Pay Discs* were brought in each payday (once a fortnight—Islington's was on Wednesdays) by a supervisor. Each worker had to sign their pay sheet under supervision and was then handed a disc, which he presented at the paymaster's window and there received his fortnight's pay. "One of the rules was that the workers were to check that the cash and pay slip tallied as far as amounts. If the worker walked away without doing so, they were unable to claim any shortfalls later". A worker was not necessarily handed the same disc each time, and so each fortnight his disc could have a different stamped number. The disc blanks were cut from sheets using a large manual screw press and then a 50 ton hydraulic workshop press was used to press the dies onto the disc to produce the image (all made by the workers in the workshop).

The bronze tally discs may have been first used in the early 1920s, when WA Webb was made Commissioner of the South Australian Railways in 1922 (–1930), and their use continued into the 1990s. The use of the chromed pay discs may have preceded that of the bronze tally discs. The metal workshop was responsible for manufacturing other items and took on outside commissions for say, the Avicultural Society of SA medal showing a bird on the obverse.

S. H. showed a 1968 bronzed medallion commemorating the 5th Adelaide Festival of Arts issued by the City of Adelaide and featuring Queen Adelaide on the obv.

David F. showed 4 x Beetles 1000000 dollars funny money each featuring one of the Beetles images.



Allan K. showed a 2021 \$1- half-ounce silver unc. "The Star Dreaming Seven Sisters" colour coin from the RAM's Indigenous Coin Series. Previous issue illustrated above right.



Virginia showed a 1930 copper South Africa penny obv. King George V, rev. 3 masted sailing ship. Mick remembered being given one of these when he was in hospital at the age of 7 years.



Mick gave an illustrated talk titled DEATH AND TAXES:

There is a saying that the only two things that are certain in life are death and taxes. Such was a part of the cause of the demise of a 50-year dream – the end of **The Hutt River Province**. On 3 August this year it officially surrendered its “sovereignty” back to the Commonwealth of Australia. Nearly 50 years ago Leonard Casley had a dispute with the Western Australian Government and the Commonwealth Government and seceded his farming property in W.A. to form the Hutt River Province.

It produced its own currency, souvenir coins, postage stamps, passports and claimed to be recognised as a sovereign state by many overseas countries or entities.

A long-running battle with the Taxation Department and an upheld claim of millions of dollars in tax, the death of Prince Leonard last year and his wife Princess Shirley before him, the decline in tourism and Covid 19 has culminated in the property now being up for sale.

Only one coin is still available from their “Treasury” with the rest and their balance of banknotes being purchased by Rainbow Rarities. The full story will be in the February 2021 CAB.

Meeting No 969 held at the Armoury Gallery, Adelaide on 17 December 2020.

(NOTE: November 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting was cancelled due to the Corona virus)

A Members' Bourse was held prior to the December meeting at 7pm with 8 Trading Tables. It was deemed an excellent and most appropriate numismatic activity and it was resolved that the Society should conduct a number of Bourses prior to meetings at suitable times each year.

Meeting commenced at 8.15pm, present: 23 members, 22 apologies and visitors, John, Russell.

Business arising from Minutes: Future Workshops would be considered subject to Bourse arrangements, COVID restrictions, Expo Sub-committee meetings and History Festivals.

Special Resolution to Alter the Constitution and By-Laws: The Secretary advised that he had received confirmation from the Consumer & Business Services, Adelaide, that the alterations to the Society's Constitution had been duly approved and registered.

Correspondence: Letter from Attorney-General's Dept Consumer & Business Services re registration of alterations to Constitution has been registered; email from SA Museum advising that NSSA meetings from January 2021 onwards will return to the Royal Society Room and that because of the cancellations of bookings in 2020 due to the Corona virus, the Museum has decided to waive our usual booking fees for the whole of 2021; email to SA Museum thanking for waiving our fees for 2021 and confirming our continued use of the Royal Society Room; usual catalogues and newsletters from affiliated societies on-sent to members by email, others tabled at the meeting are offered to members and visitors to take.

The Treasurer advised that Virginia offered to assist him with handling of receipts etc. for member subscriptions and, subsequent to his workload of recording images of members show-and-tell items and compilation of the newsletter, she has agreed to take over the role of Treasurer for the Society. With her wide experience as Treasurer of a number of other organisations and, with our financial year now ending on 31 December, the Treasurer recommended that she commence her role after he has completed the accounts, and moved that she be appointed Treasurer of the Society as at 1/1/21, seconded and carried unanimously. Richard then moved a vote of thanks to Mick for his fine efforts as Treasurer over many years. Seconded B Newman, Carried with acclamation.

NAA Report: The Secretary advised that there were still printed copies of Journal No 29 available for sale and that at the NAA AGM held by ZOOM on Sunday 25 October 2020, Walter Bloom was re-elected as President and Darren Burgess, President of the Numismatic Association of Victoria and a member of the NSSA, was appointed Secretary.

General Business:

Re-location to the Royal Society Room: The Secretary to check with the SA Museum the maximum number of attendees allowed in the Royal Society Room when COVID restrictions apply.

Door Prizes: November 2020 CAB was won by Hardeep, Dec/Jan CAB was won by David F. and 2 bottles of wine donated by Hardeep were won by J. W. and Richard.

Numismatics:



Mick advised that he had found amongst the YP Collector's Club records a number of medallions that had been designed by him and produced jointly by the YP Collectables Club and the NSSA in 2002 and struck by **A. J. Parkes** to commemorate the bi-centenary of the meeting of Flinders/Boudin in SA waters in 1802. They are available for purchase and the proceeds would be shared between the NSSA and the YP Collectables Club. He then gave an illustrated presentation about the making of the medallions.

A total of 15 pairs of the silver coloured medals were located, with eight pairs having since been sent to the Yorke Peninsula club for their members. NSSA members may purchase the remaining seven pairs of medallions at the original issue price of \$35 per pair.



Barrie showed a) a 9carat gold reproduction of a silver denarius of Emperor Marcus Aurelius 161-180AD produced by The Adelaide Mint as a memento for a Board Member of Debating SA relating to a programme devised by Debating SA to highlight the Stoic Philosophy espoused by Marcus Aurelius to students of Adelaide Schools' debating teams; b) a bronze medallion struck from the 1969 dies of the 50th anniversary of the Vickers Vimy medallion, which shows a large crack on the obverse side featuring the Vickers Vimy. To reproduce two only such medallions, The Adelaide Mint had to re-fashion the flange surrounding the edge of the die to ensure that the die did not break during pressing of the blanks.

Paul S. showed a silver medallion struck by the Pobjoy Mint for the 50th Anniversary of the NSSA in 1976.

FROM JANUARY 2021 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS WILL RESUME IN THE USUAL VENUE AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY ROOM BEHIND THE S.A. MUSEUM.