



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 136 – March 2021.

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 After April meeting, the Secretary is Richard.

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 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 Secretary 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 –15 April, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 19 Aug, 16 Sep. onwards.

Monthly Meeting No 970, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 21 January 2021.

Present, 17 members, 23 apologies, visitors Andrew, Russell, Philip and Jacob.

It was resolved that the next Bourse be held at 7pm prior to the February regular meeting in the Royal Society Room with 7 members assigned tables. The Secretary to confirm arrangements for table-holders.

May History Festival meeting: It was suggested that 2 to 3 members be approached to prepare short interesting addresses to present for this public meeting to promote numismatics. Gerry advised that he would be prepared to present a short talk on the history of coins and it was resolved that the Secretary advise the SA History Trust of the NSSA being involved in the forthcoming May History Festival.

Re-location to the Royal Society Room: The Secretary advised that the SA Museum confirmed that current COVID restrictions of social distancing and hand sanitization, together with attendance signing in with telephone numbers/email addresses still applied to the Royal Society Room.

Correspondence: Email from SA History Trust advising that our last year's registration fee for the cancelled 2020 History Festival was valid for the 2021 Festival and our re-registration was now due.

NAA Report: The Secretary advised that there were still printed copies of Journal No 29 available for sale.

General Business:

Door Prizes: 2 bottles of wine and mystery prize donated by Hardeep were won by Virginia, Joe and Helen.

New Members: Visitors, Russell, Philip, and Jacob, having paid their subscriptions and duly proposed, were elected as members of the Society with acclamation.

Numismatics:

John showed a Roman silver denarius of **Emperor Trajan** (AD98-117) and showed photos of Trajan's gate in Benevento, Italy where his parents were born and also a photo of the renowned Trajan's column.

Gerry showed a "Forget-me-not" memento formed by polishing off the rev of an English Jubilee shilling (1887-1891) and inscribing "Walter to Willie 1900" thereon. Possibly produced for **Boer War** soldiers of the Bushmens' Corps.

Richard showed 3 examples of **hammered English coins** (15th-17th Century): a) 1590 Elizabeth I silver shilling; b) 1604 James I silver shilling, clipped; c) 1633 Charles I silver

shilling, clipped, and commented that hammered coins were relatively thin and often clipped around the edges by felons to obtain valuable silver.

Paul S. showed two Scottish examples of **anti-English sentiment**: a) 1901 silver medallion obv. Edward VII and wording on surround “IN DEFENCE OF THE RIGHTS AND HONOUR OF SCOTLAND”, rev, “OUR ARMY, NAVY FLAG, PARLIAMENT & KING ALL ARE BRITISH NOT ENGLISH”; b) 1906 enamelled medallette “ALL WRONGS TO RIGHT ALL RIGHTS TO SHARE – SCOTLAND FOR EVER”



A member showed Australia’s **Centenary 1888** souvenir medallion featuring a high relief bust of Captain Cook in a raised circular border flanked by the federation flag to left and the union jack to right. On the reverse is a map of Australia ringed by lines representing the sea, with seven states shown—South and North Australia named as separate states while Tasmania is shown but not named. Irregular shaped, 36 x 40 mm, struck from unmarked silver, reference, Carlisle 1888/4* (Carlisle mentions only an enamelled sterling silver medal), maker unknown, but probably WJ Amor of Sydney.

Cook’s portrait is in profile facing left and is based on an unknown image; the only comparable portrait of cook similar both in style and in such high relief is one used on a medallion celebrating the establishment of Australia as a Commonwealth in 1901 (Carlisle 1901/19); that medal was manufactured by WJ Amor, which would indicate that our medallion also was probably made by Amor.

The flag on the left of the obverse appears to be the Federation Flag that was adopted as the unofficial flag of Australia for more than seventy years. The stars in the cross (shown only partly) each have five-points while the stars in the Jack on that flag have six points. The Federation Flag, also known as the New South Wales Ensign, came about in 1831 in an effort to create a national flag to represent Australia, at that time divided into several British colonies. It was designed and proposed by captain Jacob Gronow, harbour master of Port Jackson, Sydney. The flag was popular among proponents of Australian federation, and was also used as an unofficial ensign by the merchant marine until 1884, when Lord Derby banned its use at sea because of its similarity to the White Ensign.

Pro-federation groups like the Australian Natives Association and the Australian Federation League used the flag as a symbol to promote their push for federation under the slogan “One

People, One Destiny, One Flag”. Prime Minister Sir Edmund Barton liked the flag so much that he recommended a variant be adopted alongside the eventual competition-winning Australian Blue Ensign, but the Colonial Office, with a mild rebuke, rejected his proposal. Even after the Australian government received official approval to fly the Blue Ensign in 1903, the Federation Flag was still being flown as late as the 1920s, mainly by people in the eastern states. Until at least 2005 it was still hung in the Sydney Central Railway Station main hall. Fraser Anning’s Conservative National Party (deregistered in 2020) used the federation flag as a shield for its logo. The flag on the right of the obverse is the Union Jack, emphasising Australia’s link to its long-time parent country, England.

* Leslie J Carlisle, *Australian Historical Medals 1788–1988*, the author, Sydney, 2008.

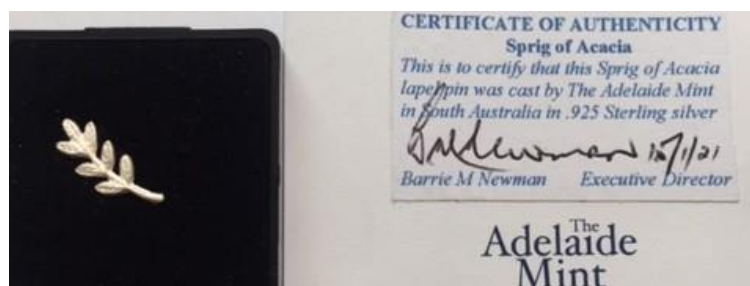
Mick presented a power-point address on “TRUE OR FALSE – How authentic is authentication?”



A genuine specimen overprint -

“A 1996 \$100 specimen note appeared on an online bidding platform this week certified as a genuine note. The note itself may well be genuine, but in my opinion the specimen overprinting is not. The overprinting is in a different position, is off-colour and smudged and the style of lettering differs from all the other specimens in my photographic archive. A further polymer \$10 note with the same style of specimen numbering also appeared from a different seller. Mick believed it was possible they were charity auction notes which has been unlawfully overprinted.” Mick illustrated and explained the differences, and has emailed the RBA to ask them to contact the original receiver of that specimen number if the note is still in their possession. It was later learned that the RBA still had the original specimen notes with those specimen numbers in its own collection. Mick also discussed other suspect “errors” seen.

“There are a lot of weird and wonderful “errors” on the market. I have owned, examined, studied and stored images of many hundreds of printing errors and written a book about them. Only the NPA can prove one way or the other if a fault is genuine, otherwise only actual collecting experience can differentiate between those that are true or false?”



Barrie showed a Sterling silver “**Sprig of Acacia**” lapel pin produced by The Adelaide Mint with Certificate of Authenticity. He advised that 50 had been specially cast for distribution to

Freemasons around South Australia. He commented that the “Sprig of Acacia” was a part of Freemasons’ ritual and that this emblem was specifically used by Freemasons in Germany and Italy covertly, as they did not wish to publicly highlight that they were Freemasons by wearing the normal “Square & Compasses” badge. This emanated from the time that Hitler banned intellectuals, Freemasons and Jews, putting many of them in concentration camps.

Monthly Meeting No 971, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 18 February 2021.



A Members’ **Bourse** was held prior to the February meeting commencing at 7pm with 7 Trading Tables. Another successful numismatic activity. It was agreed that the next Bourse be held on 17 June 2021 prior to our regular June meeting.



Displayed by Barrie at the Bourse.

Meeting commenced at 8.15pm. Present: 19 members, 21 apologies, visitor Seenying.

Re-location to the Royal Society Room: The Secretary advised that the SA Museum confirmed that current COVID restrictions of social distancing and hand sanitization, together with attendance signing in with telephone numbers/email addresses still applied to the Royal Society Room.

NAA Report: The Secretary advised that there were still printed copies of Journal No 29 available for sale at \$25- each. He would be submitting our Report for 2020 to the NAA after the AGM.

General Business:

Door Prizes: 2 bottles of wine donated by Hardeep were won by Neil and David and the Feb CAB was won by Matthew.

Nominations for Office Bearers: In accordance with By-Law 10 nominations for all Office Bearers for the ensuing year were tabled at the meeting. There being only one nomination for each, the following would be elected at the AGM in March: President – Gerry, Secretary – Richard, Treasurer – Virginia, Vice-Presidents – David and Steve.

SA Philatelic Postcard, Stamp & Coin Exhibition: David advised that this Exhibition would be held at Torrens Training Depot on 1-2 May 21. It was confirmed that the NSSA would man a table at this Exhibition.

Society's Microscope: Mick advised that the microscope needed repairs or replacing. It was confirmed if it could not be repaired a replacement was to be purchased, (purchased in March).

Numismatics:



Paul J. showed Heraclius, with **Heraclius Constantine** and Heraclonas. 610-641. Gold Solidus (19mm, 4.46g). Constantinople mint, 5th officina. Struck 638/9-641.

Heraclonas, Heraclius, and Heraclius Constantine standing facing, each holding globus cruciger (The cross represents Christ's dominion over the orb of the world, literally held in the

hand of an earthly ruler) Cross potent (cross with equal arms each of which ends in a bar) set on three steps; monogram to left, A to right; Herakleios included his sons' portraits on his coins to ensure that his subjects would expect them to succeed him.

Some of the earliest Arab coins minted in Syria in the later 600s mimicked his coins. Coins connected an emperor to his subjects. He paid the army in coins, received taxes in coins, and was responsible for maintaining their weight and purity. These coins of early Byzantine emperors conveyed imperial ideals through inscriptions and images. One of the greatest of all Byzantine leaders and the founder of a remarkable dynasty, Heraclius came to power when the Empire seemed on the point of disintegration.

The Persians occupied Asia Minor and when they captured Jerusalem, this was a heavy blow to the Christians. The Slavs & Avars continued to ravage the Balkans and even penetrated to the Greek islands. After much re-organization of Byzantine military culture, the great counter-offensive began in 622 and after six years of hard fighting, with the Emperor often leading his troops in person. By the end of his reign he had recaptured all the land that previous emperors had lost.

Richard showed a) 1893 **Queen Vic 2 pounds gold** coin, rev. St George & Dragon, from a specimen coin set and b) a metal 1871 **Electric Telegraph** one penny stamp from New South Wales, being the fee for sending telegraph messages at that time. He advised that the Electric Telegraph is a point-to-point text messaging system primarily used from the 1840s to the mid-



20th century when it was replaced by other telecommunication systems. It was the first electrical telecommunications system, devised to send text messages using coded pulses of electric current through dedicated wires to transmit messages more rapidly than written messages. Prior to the electric telegraph, semaphore systems were used, including beacons, smoke signals, flag semaphore and optical telegraphs to communicate over distances. He explained the early systems including Morse Code and those using multiple wires and needle pointers involving pulses from batteries or dynamos.

Virginia showed a reproduction gold sovereign cast from an original coin minted at the **Tower of London** between 1544-1547 during King Henry VIII's reign, diam 38mm, obv. King Henry VIII bearded portrait, seated facing on throne with curved sides holding orb in left hand and sceptre in right hand, rose at feet, rev. Crowned shield of Arms, Fleur-de-lys in first and third quarters, lions in second and third quarters, supported by lion and griffin (dragon) standing on scrollwork marked HR.

She mentioned that Henry reigned from 21 April 1509 to 28 January 1547 and that for the first 16 years of his reign, coinage followed the pattern of previous issues. In 1526 in an effort to prevent the drain of gold to continental Europe, the value of English gold was increased by 10% taking the sovereign up to 22s 0d.

Within a few months the sovereign was again revalued at 22s 6d and in 1544, the debasement of the coinage was continued to help finance Henry's wars by changing the carats from 24 to 23, then in 1545 to 22 carats and in 1546 to 20 carats.

Mick donated a cast medallion "**World's Greatest Fisherman**" to Paul S. and showed the latest **Cornish Festival medallion** and stated: "After a gap of 12 years a new Cornish Festival medallion has been produced for the 25th Cornish Festival to be held in the Copper Coast towns of Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo S.A. from the 17th to the 23rd May 2021.



"This 19th Cornish Festival medallion, designed by myself and Robyn Knight, was issued by the Sir Richard Williams RAAF Centenary Celebrations Committee based in Moonta to commemorate the Centenary of the Royal Australian Air Force (1921-2021).

"Sir Richard, widely regarded as "The Father of the R.A.A.F", had a very extensive and impressive career. A much more detailed account of his career is presented by Wikipedia via Google, which is recommended for further reading.

"500 x 32mm diameter copper medallions were struck by Trend Corporate of St. Peters N.S.W. They retail for \$15 each plus \$3 post with tracking.

Considering the importance and popularity of Sir Richard and the limited numbers produced it is possible they will sell out before the festival in May. Collectors can email Robyn Knight at srwraafccc@adam.com.au for a bank account number to obtain eft payment details if they wish to obtain a medallion.

Frank Robinson of the NAV later advised Mick of an error in the information card with the medallion "The statement about the formation of a separate RAAF should read "after WWI", not "after WW2"."

Seenying mentioned she was doing a research project on Cashless Monetary Instruments and asked if members would be interested in assisting her with her research. A flyer is separately illustrated on the second to last page of this newsletter for the information of members.

THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC. – PRESIDENT’S REPORT FOR 2020

Let’s recap on 2020 the year that most of us want to forget. It’s the year that we all got to stay at home, purchase new coins online and organise coins we already collected. Perhaps not a bad thing really. This was all to avoid personal interaction, gatherings and the threat of catching or transferring this coronavirus (COVID19) bug.

This has been a challenge for the Society with five of our monthly meetings cancelled and, because of restrictions we re-located to a larger venue for five other meetings in the second half of the year.

We were fortunate to be accommodated in the larger, spacious Armoury Gallery located behind the SA Museum. I’m sure I speak for all when I say this that the venue change was not a big deal for us. The SA Museum have provided the Society with venues since our inception in 1926. 2021 has seen us move back to our usual Royal Society Room venue we sit tonight.

Over the 7 meetings held in 2020 we averaged 21 members attending. We also welcomed two new members. Although 2021 is just beginning we have also welcomed another three new members this year already.

One of the casualties of 2020 was our annual Coin & Banknote Expo usually held in November. Whilst we all held up hope that Covid restrictions would ease it was ultimately decided to cancel the event. We hope to pick this up for November 2021 and hope that the Royal Australian Mint are able to attend in support of our Expo this year.

Other disappointments in 2020 were our involvements in the South Australian Philatelic Council’s 2020 Stamp & Postcard shows and SA History Trust’s May History Festival. These were both cancelled in 2020 but have been reinstated for 2021.

During the time we couldn’t hold meetings the Secretary produced an Occasional Newsletter in March, April, May and July. These were included in the quarterly Newsletter, prepared by Mick Vort-Ronald and distributed by post and emailed in colour to all members and to 30 other associated Societies and organisations.

As we have a significant changing of the guard this month, I have every confidence that the newly appointed president secretary, treasurer and office bearers will lead the society to a successful numismatic future. [Find this report on the NSSA website where there is a link to Kathryn’s Sydney Harbour Bridge article.](#)

**Annual General Meeting and Monthly Meeting No. 972, Royal Society Room, Adelaide
18 March 2021**

Present: 24 members, one visitor, 15 apologies.

Business Arising from Monthly Meeting No. 971: *May History Festival Meeting 20 May 2021:* Our registration now confirmed – Topic “Collaborative Talk on the History of Coins”

Correspondence: Letter from member, Charles Waites, Canada, advising change of address.

Treasurer’s and Auditor’s Reports for Past Year & Treasurer’s Report for Past Month: The Treasurer advised that the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the 15 months ended 31 December 2020, had been audited and the Profit and Loss Statement showing total funds of the Society as at end 2020 was tabled.

President’s Award for Best Numismatic Presentation/s during year: The President announced that Richard was the recipient of the award for his many thoughtful, detailed and interesting presentations on unique and quality ancient coins at every meeting during the past 15 months.

President’s Report and Numismatic Address: President Kathryn gave a short Report on the activities of the Society over the past 15 months as attached. Membership in the Society has been steadily increasing to 69 members and attendances at meetings have regularly been 21 or more despite the corona virus. She then presented her Numismatic Address as a power-point address on the building and completion of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. 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: Gerry, Secretary: Richard, Treasurer: Virginia, Vice-Presidents: Steve and David. Councillors: In addition to the above and the Immediate Past President, the following three members were elected to Council: Barrie, Pauls S and J.

NAA Representative: Barrie, Public Officer: Richard, Editor of Newsletter and Occasional Journal: Mick Vort-Ronald, Auditor: Paul J.

Subscriptions remain at \$30 for Australian members and \$30 for overseas members. The new Treasurer advised that, with normal monthly reimbursement of expenses, it was not necessary to provide Honorariums to the Secretary and Treasurer.

Bank signatories: Transfer of bank signatories to be submitted to the ANZ Bank, as previously: any two of the President, Secretary and Treasurer.

General Business:

Presentation to Past Secretary: On behalf of the Society, Richard proposed a vote of thanks to Barrie for his 12 years’ service as Secretary of the NSSA from Nov 2008 and presented him with a mounted 1935 (Barrie’s year of birth) British Crown, as a token of esteem, with acclamation from those present at the meeting.

New Member: Visitor, Seenying, being her second visit and having paid her subscription and being proposed and seconded was duly elected a member of the Society with acclamation.

Door Prize: The Draw for the current CAB magazine (March Issue) was won by Hardeep and bottles of wine donated by Hardeep and Robert were won by Neil, JC and Helen.

SA Philatelic Postcard and Match Cover Collector's Show: Barrie asked for volunteers to support the Society's exhibition table at the forthcoming event on the weekend 1-2 May and advised that he would forward the 2020 NSSA Report to the Secretary of the NAA.

Numismatics:



Mark showed an interesting World War I token/**trench art/identity disc**, produced on one side of an ancient silver Greek coin (23mm diam, 6.5gms silver) and engraved "Tpr E Barber/No 3149/ B Sqn, 1ALH, AIF 1919". Research has shown that Barber joined the Australian Light Horse, re-enlisted in WW2 and was a Corporal 1940-44.

Paul S. showed a photo of the "**World's Greatest Fisherman**" as reported in the last month's NSSA Minutes of Mick presenting him a cast medallion. The photo shows Paul as a young person in Dec 1967 holding a very large fish that he had caught at Pondalowie, SA.

R. H. showed a) a 50th Anniversary of nickel coinage **Kookaburra penny** 1919-1959; b) a vitreous enamel/gold-plated medallion with seal of the President of the United States of America on one side and **President Obama's** signature on the other side.



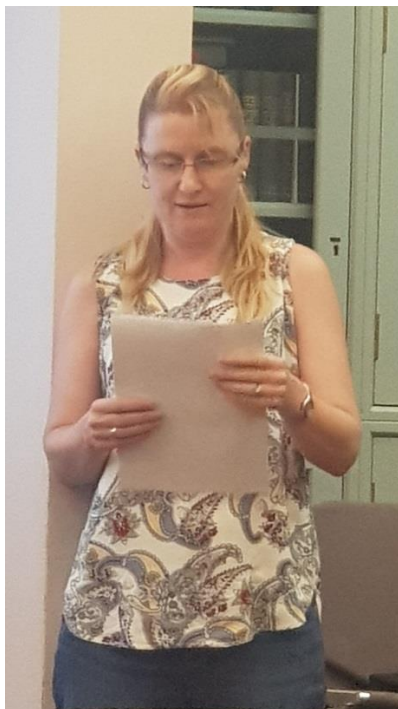
Gerry showed another form of "trench art" from the Boer War with an image of **Kruger**, smoking a pipe, on one side of an 1897 South African silver coin.

Mick advised that he wrote articles for the Australian Coin Review from 1975 until it closed at the end of 2001 (26 years), and then for twenty years for the CAB magazine. He was also editor of the ACR from 1999 to 2001 and wrote all of the coin news during that time.

Very few people will have all 57 years (625 issues) of these magazines and therefore the majority of Mick's articles have remained unavailable to most collectors for decades.

To complement two three-year volumes of Vort-Ronald in CAB already published, Mick has collated over 1,200 pages of his articles from 1975 to 2012 into three volumes of 400 pages each. These are designated Volumes 1, 2 and 3. The previous two issues are now Volumes 4 and 5 and Volume 6 from 2018 to April 2021 is volume 6. Costs are \$75 each for volumes 1 to 3, volume 4 \$36, volume 5 \$42 and the latest volume 6 of 232 pages, \$50. The full set of 6 books with over 1,750 pages costs \$353. See flyer next page.

Richard showed a 1902 Edward VII Trade Dollar .900 silver made for trade in the Far East.



Photos, top left, Richard presenting Barrie with his 1935 UK crown. Photos by Helen. Bottom, Kathryn giving her address, and presenting president's award medal to Richard.



TOWARDS A CASHLESS ECONOMY: EXPLORING THE CONCEPT OF ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY THROUGH CASHLESS MONETARY INSTRUMENTS IN THE LIVES OF OLDER ADELAIDEANS DURING COVID-19

You are invited to participate in the research project described below.

What is the project about?

As a result of COVID-19, Australia is propelled towards an increasingly cashless economy. This research project seeks to engage with individuals **aged 60 and above** in Adelaide to explore how they negotiate the path towards a predominantly cashless economy during a public health crisis. It seeks to examine whether this path has been one which enhances or suppresses the economic wellbeing of those in the targeted age group in relation to their capacity to participate in, and engage with a society that has become increasingly cashless.

This research project aims to:

1. Increase understandings of the lived experience of Adelaide's older generation through their engagement with cash and cashless payments;
2. Explore the connection between monetary instruments, economic independence and social wellbeing amongst older Adelaideans.

Who is undertaking the project?

This research project is being conducted by Seenying Lau Meaney. This research will form the basis for the degree of PhD in Anthropology at the University of Adelaide under the supervision of Dr. Alison Dundon (principal supervisor) and Professor Andrew Skuse (co-supervisor).

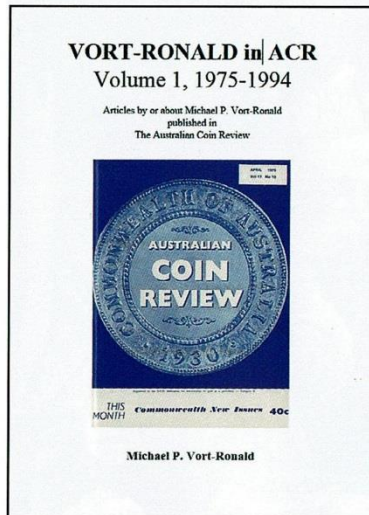
If I want to participate, what do I do?

If you are interested in participating in this research project, please contact Seenying Lau Meaney at seenying.laumeaney@adelaide.edu.au for more information.

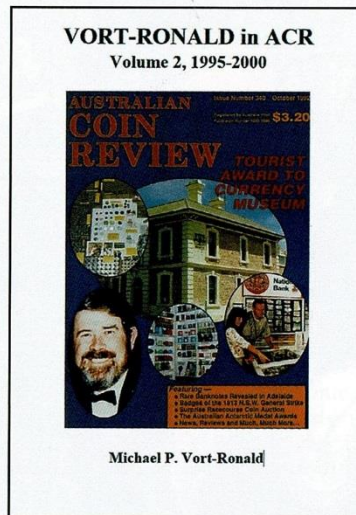
**Human Research Ethics Committee
Approval Number: H-2020-257**

VORT-RONALD in *ACR* and *CAB*

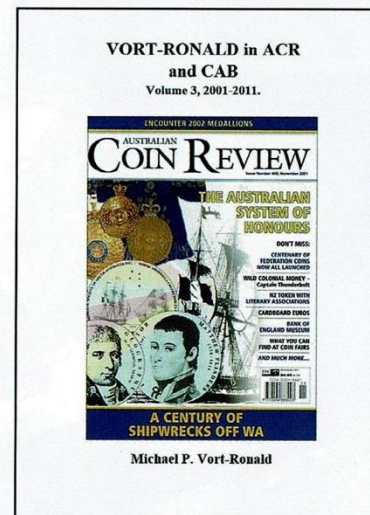
To celebrate over 45 years of writing articles for the *Australian Coin Review* and the *Australasian Coin and Banknote* magazine, four new Vort-Ronald publications have been produced to provide a further 1,430 pages of articles by or about Mick Vort-Ronald in those magazines. These will complement the previous two editions published, now designated as Volumes 4 and 5. VERY FEW people would have all 57 years (625 issues) of these magazines, so this is a golden opportunity for researchers and collectors to catch up with what was written by Mick decades ago up to today, particularly about Australian banknotes.



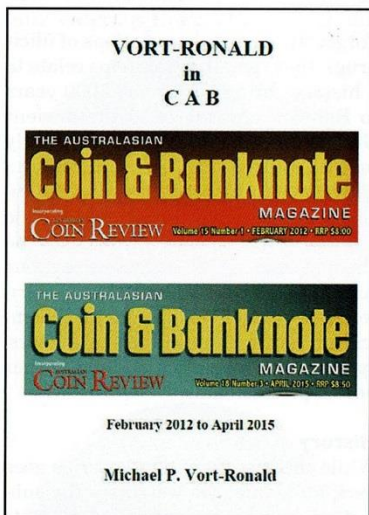
Volume 1, 1975-1994



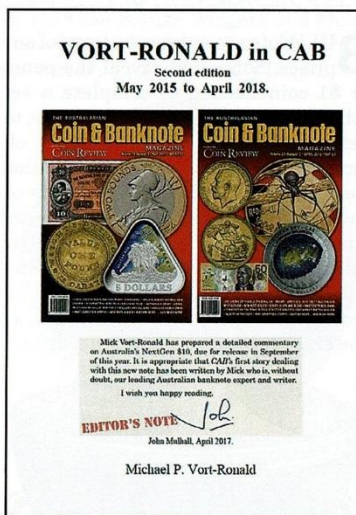
Volume 2, 1995-2000



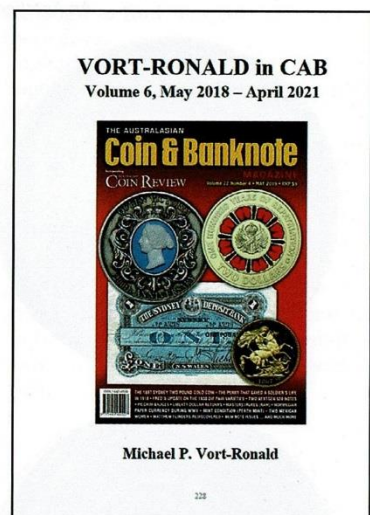
Volume 3, 2001-2012.



Volume 4, 2012-2015



Volume 5, 2015-2018.



Volume 6, 2018-2021

Volumes 1, 2 and 3 have 400 pages each for \$75 each plus \$15 post for one or two or \$19 post for all three. Volume 4 has 148 pages for \$36, Volume 5 has 172 pages for \$42, Volume 6 has 234 pages for \$50, post \$12 each or \$15 post for two or three. Payment by cheque, money order or EFT to M..P. Vort-Ronald, P.O. Box 653 Willaston S.A. 5118. Ph. (08) 8522 4490, mob. 0417 212 906, no text messages please. email vortronald@yp-connect.net Further information Web pages www.yp-connect.net/~vortronald Payment by EFT to 015590 580785528 with postcode or surname.