



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 137 – June 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 312 Magill 5072**. For information, contact the Secretary, Richard Welling; secretary@sanumismatics.org.au

NSSA web page -- sanumismatics.org.au Webmaster: Mark.

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, mobile 0417 212 906, P.O. Box 653 Willaston S.A. 5118. email vortronald@yp-connect.net

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. Treasurer: Virginia, at treasurer@sanumismatics.org.au

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 are photographed by Mick at meetings, but members can also send images of their items direct to Mick.

Newsletters are 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 July, Bourse 7 – 7.50 pm, followed by general meeting.

Future dates - 19 August, 16 September, 21 October, 18 November, write them down in your diary and/or calendar please.

Meeting No 973 held at the Royal Society Room, Adelaide on 15 April 2021.

Present: 15 members, 26 apologies.

May History Festival meeting: Barrie advised that the members presenting our topic “A Collaborative Talk on the History of coins” are Richard – Ancients, Gerry– British/Australian prior to Decimal currency, Kathryn – Australian Post-Decimal.

SA Philatelic Postcard Society Exhibition: Barrie asked for members to support staff our table at this Exhibition on 1-2 May:

Accounts for payment \$90 subscription for Australasian Coin & Banknote Magazine and \$204.29 to Mick for reimbursement of the cost of a new digital microscope for the society.

Bank Signature Authorisation: It was approved that the Bank signatories of The Numismatic Society of SA Inc be the President, Secretary and Treasurer, each to be authorized to make approved payments electronically using respective passwords.

NAA Report: The Secretary advised that there were still printed copies of Journal No 29 available for sale at \$25 each.

General Business:

Research Project: Seenying introduced herself and explained why she was undertaking her research and how some of our members could assist and support her project, “Towards a Cashless Economy”. She advised that her introductory flyers had been included with the Agenda for this meeting and she was seeking persons aged 60 and above to be involved in the research over a 12 months period. She commented that utmost care and confidentiality would be maintained at all times. After the meeting 4 or 5 members indicated a willingness to be involved and obtained the necessary approval documents from her.

Door Prize: April CAB was won by Alan.

Bourse: It was recommended that the next Bourse be held prior to our July meeting.

Numismatics:



Paul S. showed an 1885 medalet issued by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Bendigo for "First Prize of a Demonstration", obv. Reel of a fire hose within an outer wreath, rev. "Won by Brunswick Band 1885" also within outer wreath (30 mm, silver). (Images previous page).



Paul J. showed two coins from the Crusaders:

a) County of Tripoli *Bohemond VII*, Dated 1275-1287 Silver Gros (26mm, 4.18 g). + SEPTINVS BOENVNDVS CONES (Ns for Ms are retrograde), cross pattée in tressure of twelve arcs / + CIVITAS TRIPOLIS SVRIE (citizen of a nice city), triple-towered gateway within tressure of twelve arcs.

Bohemond VII was the son of Bohemond VI of Antioch and his wife Sibylla of Armenia. As Bohemond VII was still underage at his succession, Sibylla acted as regent, although the regency was also unsuccessfully claimed by Hugh I of Jerusalem, Bohemond's closest living male relative.

Guy of Byblos and the Templars assaulted Tripoli, but were met outside the walls by Bohemond. Bohemond was defeated, but the Templar fleet of twelve galleys was scattered by a storm and the Bohemond fleet of fifteen attacked and damaged Templar Sidon. The last conflict began in January 1282, when the Embriacos (from Genoa) tried to take Tripoli by surprise. They found the Templar master away and so took refuge with the Hospitallers, who handed them over to Bohemond on condition that he would spare their lives. He buried them up to their necks in sand at Nephin and starved them to death. Some of the characters from this story were used in the film Kingdom of Heaven but they were out of context and date.

This coin weighs exactly the same as the French gros tournois. These intricate and beautiful coins were not long in circulation until Tripoli was surrendered to the Mamluks in 1289 and thus, were the last coins to be struck in the 'crusader states'.

b) Richard I minted under his father Henry II facing, crowned bust with sceptre outside inner linear circle, legend commences upper left, hENRICVS R EX, rev. short voided cross pommee (ball at the end of a cross), cross pommee in each angle, beaded circles and legend surrounding, +CVCRARD ON CVC, letter C punch used instead of E giving an unusual reading,

As King of England, Richard I spent only about six months of his reign in England; for the rest of the time he was engaged in foreign wars. In 1190 he departed for the east as one of the leaders of the Third Crusade. To pay for this enterprise Richard auctioned off all that he could: land, towns, castles, and even offices. The quote attributed to him, "I would have sold London itself, if I could have found a buyer" accurately reflected his great need for funds to carry out the crusade. None of his territories were exempt in contributing.

His crushing of an attempted coup by John and his sporadic wars with Philip II drained the royal treasury and only deepened Richard's desperation for money. His unpaid mercenaries wreaked havoc throughout the countryside.

A peasant discovered a hoard of gold statuettes and coins at Châlus in Limousin, and the Lord held it in his castle for safe-keeping; the enraged Richard laid siege to the castle. In the course of checking the progress of the siege one evening, Richard, at that time not in full armour, was struck in the shoulder by a crossbow bolt, which proved fatal. (*This was portrayed in the 2010 movie **Robin Hood**, starring Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchet – a good movie – Ed.*)



Steve showed three United States of America circulating one-dollar coins:

a) Susan B Anthony Dollar (1979-1981 & 1999) women's suffrage activist and the first historical female person portrayed on US coinage;

b) Sacagawea dollar (2000-present) – in 1998, the US Mint conducted a limited design competition for the new dollar, inviting 23 artists to submit designs portraying Sacagawea on the obverse and American bald eagle on the reverse; 123 submitted designs. Since no verifiable image of Sacagawea exists, a University of New Mexico college student and a Shoshone Indian was a model for the coin. There are approx. 1 billion Sacagawea coins in circulation and about 250 million in reserve. As of 2021, dollar coins are not widely encountered in the US except in vending machines for rides on mass transit, some pay and display machines, some laundromats and old-fashioned slot machines. On the other hand, the Sacagawea dollar has achieved popularity in El Salvador, Ecuador and Panama where the US dollar is also the official currency;

c) Abraham Lincoln Dollar – in December 2005 Congress decided to create a new series of \$1 coins that would honour the former US Presidents. Under Federal law no coins may be issued featuring a living president or a president who died less than two years earlier. Hence, former presidents Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, George W Bush and Barack Obama were ineligible to have a dollar coin issued in their honour. There are 41 presidents' coins (one president, Grover Cleveland, had two separate terms and two separate coin designs).

Gerry donated each member present a 2020 Australian \$1- coloured "Donation Dollar" coin with words "GIVE TO HELP OTHERS" on reverse. (fourth image after U.S. dollar coins above).

Mick showed samples of gold nuggets and discussed some faults/errors/frauds in Australian banknotes: Natural gold nuggets recently sold in auction for about double gold value.

SYDNEY GOLD COINAGE.

Laid before Parliament by command of His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

South Australia.—Circular.

Downing-street, 20th March, 1866.

Sir—I have the honor to transmit, for your information, the accompanying copy of a Proclamation, which has been approved by the Queen in Council, declaring Gold Coins made at the Branch Mint at Sydney, New South Wales, a legal tender within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

You will take care that full publicity is given to this proclamation in the most authentic manner in the Colony under your Government.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD CARDWELL.

Governor Sir D. Daly, &c., &c., &c.

BY THE QUEEN.—A Proclamation for declaring Gold Coins made at the Branch Mint at Sydney, New South Wales, a legal tender within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and for imposing a charge of threepence per ounce troy of standard gold on the coinage of gold at the said branch mint, being a charge sufficient to defray the expenses of coinage over and above the expenses of assay and refining.

VICTORIA R.

Whereas, by an Order in Council, bearing date the nineteenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, we have thought fit to order that a branch of our royal mint should be established at or near Sydney, in New South Wales:

And whereas, in the eighteenth year of our reign, by an Order in Council, dated the eighteenth day of October one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, we have thought fit to order that certain pieces of gold money should be coined at the said branch of our royal mint, to be called respectively Australian sovereigns and Australian half sovereigns, and to be of the same respective weights, fineness, and values with the sovereigns and half sovereigns now current within this our realm:

And whereas, pursuant to and in virtue of the powers given in our said Orders in Council, it is provided that a coinage of the said Australian sovereigns and half sovereigns shall be made, and that every such Australian sovereign shall have for the obverse our effigy, with the inscription, "Victoria, D.G. Britannia Regina, F.D.," and the date of the year, and for the reverse the word "Australia" placed in the centre of the piece, encircled by a laurel wreath, and surmounted by the royal crown with the inscription "Sydney Mint, one sovereign," and with a graining on the edge; and that every such Australian half sovereign shall have the obverse in every respect similar to that of the sovereign, and for the reverse the same word "Australia" in the centre, encircled and surmounted in like manner, but for the inscription the words, "Sydney mint half sovereign," and a graining on the edge:

And whereas pieces of gold money have been and will be coined at our said branch of the royal mint in pursuance of orders issued and to be issued:

And whereas by an Act made and passed in the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh years of our reign, intituled "An Act to enable Her Majesty to declare gold coins to be issued from Her Majesty's branch mint at Sydney, New South Wales, a legal tender for payments, and for other purposes relating thereto," it is provided that "it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by proclamation issued with the advice of Her Privy Council, to declare that, after a date specified in such proclamation gold coins made at the said branch mint at Sydney aforesaid, of designs approved by Her Majesty, and being of the same weight and fineness as are required by law with respect to gold coins of the same denominations made at Her Majesty's mint in London, are to be a legal tender for payments within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and upon such proclamation being issued gold coins, made of such designs and being of such weight and fineness as aforesaid, shall be a legal tender for payments accordingly:" And whereas by the same Act it is further provided that "it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by proclamation issued with such advice as aforesaid, from time to time, to impose on the coinage of gold at the said branch mint at Sydney a charge sufficient to defray the expenses of coinage over and above the expenses of assay and refining; and it shall be incumbent on the said deputy master to coin gold at the charge so imposed:"

We therefore, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, have thought fit to issue this our royal proclamation, and we do ordain, declare, and command, that from and after the date of the publication of this our proclamation in the *London Gazette*, coins, made at the said branch mint, of designs approved by us, at Sydney aforesaid, and being of the same weight and fineness as are required by law with respect to gold coins of the same denominations made at our mint in London, shall be a legal tender for payments within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

And we do hereby, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, by this our royal proclamation, impose on the coinage of gold at the said branch mint at Sydney the charge of threepence per ounce troy of gold of standard fineness, being a charge sufficient to defray the expenses of coinage over and above the expenses of assay and refining.

Given at our Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, this third day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, and in the twenty-ninth year of our reign.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!



Shown are some nuggets Mick purchased with a total weight of 2.55 grams for \$326. First two images, Kearns auctions. Third image shows actual sizes.

The hunt for gold in S.A. in 1868 from Hansard. Reports in Hansard included a proposal in 1869 to cut a long channel called a water race 20 miles long from one part of the Onkaparinga River to another to service the Echunga and Jupiter Creek gold fields, and a scheme to look for gold over a very large area in the Murray Flats in 1870.

An 1866 page from “the blue book” reported the official consent for the striking of Sydney mint gold coins (previous page). The extracts were taken from old Hansards (Proceedings of S.A. Parliament) dumped at the local tip by the Angaston Institute in 1971 that were rescued by Mick, cleaned up, held 50 years, items of interest saved and remainder destroyed.



Kathryn referred a woman to Mick who had a \$5 note to seek an opinion as to whether it was a genuine printing error. The note has the appearance of the top to bottom security strip having been heat sealed to the note without first removing a covering on the strip. Images sent to RBA to confirm. They replied “I showed the photos to my colleague in the relevant department and he believes the banknote appears to have been damaged by exposure to hot water, for example in a washing machine. This would have resulted in the appearance of the foil stripe”. As such, he does not think it is a print error banknote. The story will be in the August CAB.



In a recent CAB Mick reported on the sale of the last of the charity sheets, 45 x \$100 Next-Gen notes for \$75,000. The first to appear from the cut-up sheet was sold for a hammer price of \$2,600. Its original cost was \$1,666 (illustrated above). Some interesting banknotes were sold in the Eureka auction a few days ago. A heavily washed five-pound missing Commonwealth of Australia (above right) sold for \$95 and a discoloured ten-pound note probably from the budgie hoard buried in Queensland, \$190 (next page).



An illegally split 10/- sold for \$60, all plus buyer's premiums, images Eureka auctions. All notes shown interfered with were correctly described in the auction.

Monthly Meeting No 974 held at the Royal Society Room, Adelaide on 20 May 2021.

Sub-committee meeting commenced at 7.15.

General Meeting commenced at 8.00pm., Present: 20 members, 21 apologies.

Mick Vort-Ronald Honorary Life Membership: It was moved and approved in the sub-committee meeting that Michael P Vort-Ronald be awarded Honorary Life Membership of the NSSA. Mick has been a tireless worker for the NSSA for many years and it was unanimously passed by the sub-committee that Mick be awarded Honorary Life Membership of the NSSA. (20 years as treasurer, 25 years as newsletter editor and 6 terms as president).

SA History Festival Talks Report:

Three members of the NSSA each gave a talk for about 20 minutes and the three talks encompassed a brief history of coinage from Ancient times to recent.

Each speaker presented photos of various coins issued through different periods of history and their talks seemed to be well received by those present.



Richard – Ancient Greek & Roman Coins, image above.

Gerald – British & Australian Pre-Decimal coins (top, next page)

Mark – Australian Decimal coins (centre, next page).

Photos courtesy of Alan K.



Gerry



Mark

Door Prize: *Door prize/Quiz prize* was won by Richard.

Meeting No 975 held at the Royal Society Room, Adelaide on 17 June 2021.

Present: 18 members, 25 apologies.

NAA Report: Barrie advised that NAA Journal number 30 has been prepared and will soon be available to members via email. Printed copies will also be available at \$26 each.

General Business:

The Society acknowledged the passing of NSSA member Ronald Morgan with a minute's silence. The passing of well-known coin dealer Kevin Ayres was also acknowledged – an obituary of Kevin by Mick will be in the August CAB.

Steve offered to help with printing of flyers for the NSSA November show.

Barrie advised correspondence with the RAM regarding promotional period for the NSSA November show. Quiz Prize: June numismatic quiz was won by Robert.

Bourse: It was recommended that the next Bourse be held prior to our July meeting from approximately 7 pm until approximately 7.50 pm.

Numismatics:



Paul showed an interesting 1879 Sydney exhibition season ticket with photo of the purchaser of the ticket attached to it with a season ticket costing 3 Guineas, and also showed a USA 1868 Ulysses S. Grant bronze medal struck in high relief.



Paul J. showed four coins from James I:

1) James I Gold Half Laurel, mm rose, struck 1620-1621 and a very nice example. The gold laurel was introduced to replace the double crown of 1604. 2) James I Gold Half Crown, 2nd coinage 1605-06, mm rose. This small coin was the last half crown struck in gold and is 17mm and 1.21 grams. 3) James I shilling, mm lis, 2nd coinage, 3rd bust, struck 1604-1605 period.



4) James I Harrington farthing. It was during the reign of King James I that copper coinage was introduced. From his previous experience as King of Scotland James realized that small denomination copper coins would be acceptable, as they had been in use in Scotland and on the European mainland for some time. James decided not to have copper coinage produced by the Royal Mint, but instead put the production of farthings into the hands of John Harrington, 1st Baron of Exton. Harrington was charged for the privilege of minting the farthings, but also made a healthy profit on the deal.

Mick showed examples of share certificates and spoke about the latest publications he has released, Mining Shares book and Miscellaneous and Political Propaganda notes book.



Gerry showed an attractive example of the famous GB 1847 Gothic crown. He also generously provided some quiz prizes and the numismatic quiz was won by Robert.

Joe also showed an example of the famous GB 1847 Gothic crown. This beautiful design is keenly sought after by collectors. Only about 8000 coins were produced.

Ern also showed an example of the same coin, a well-made copy of this spectacular design.

Richard showed examples of the 1731 Portugal Gold Johanna and 1784 Half Johanna. These coins were accepted as legal tender during the Australian proclamation period of 1800-25.

Helen showed a miniature coin of the \$2 half gram Koala, also some Ginger Megs coloured \$1 coins and Proof coin pair. Jimmy Bancks created the original Ginger Megs comic strip.

Robert showed an example of the scarce 1985 5c coin which was not issued for general circulation.

Steve showed an example of the 2000 \$1 Victoria Cross coin in slab graded MS68 and talked about the history of the VC and how most of the medals were made from the metal of captured Chinese cannons.