



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 140 – March 2022.

Society meetings are held 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.

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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 a printed version, **AND IN COLOUR**. Please advise the 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.

The January 2022 general meeting was cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

Meeting No 982, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 17th February 2022.

Present: 15 members, 8 apologies.

Numismatics:



Mick gave an illustrated talk about a **sheet of Bicentenary \$10** notes coming up in the next Downie auction signed by David Solomon, principal inventor of the OVD (Captain Cook image) and explained the different varieties of the note. (It sold for \$1,500). Images, Downies Australian Coin Auctions. Full story in April 2022 CAB.

Paul S. showed an interesting example of **WW1 trench art**, a smoothed 1889 GB crown engraved to Erle A.G. Boyd RAN who served in the RAN from 1911 to WW2.

P.J. showed a **1939 E mintmark German 2 Mark** silver coin, the E being quite a scarce mint mark for this year.



Richard showed a range of **Zeppelin medals** and gave a brief talk on the history of the Zeppelins circa 1894-1937.

David presented a scarce **Bryant & May** 50 year service silver medal awarded in 1942. See article.

Virginia showed an interesting Australian 5c error coin with partial **10c brockage**.

Paul.J. presented some coinage of the **Australian Proclamation** period, as follows.



English, George III. 1760-1820. Silver Emergency Issue Dollar, (38mm, 26.05 g) Mexico City Mint dated 1792. Laureate and Draped bust of Charles IV of Spain right; c/m: bust of George III in a circular cartouche crowned coat-of-arms between two pillars. *The oval counter-stamped coins were struck in response to the crisis of silver coinage in England at the end of the 18th Century. The supply of silver in commerce and for the Mint had dwindled due to the Wars in France after the Revolution in 1797 which caused a shortage for the minting of coins. From March 1797 the Bank of England therefore released stocks of its Spanish colonial dollars and halves each with an oval countermark. Unfortunately, this did not alleviate the problem of smaller change and the production of counter-stamps was inconsistent. On top of this, the oval pieces were being readily counterfeited until the more complex, larger octagonal mark replaced them from January to May 1804.*



PORTUGAL. BRAZIL. 1791 Half Johanna Maria I .917 gold, 31.5mm.

Obverse: Veiled Bust of Maria I of Portugal facing right, "Maria· I· D·G· PORT· ET· ALG· REGINA 1793. R." ("Maria I, by the Grace of God, Queen of Portugal and Algarve, 1793 R").

Reverse: Crowned, ornate Shield of Arms of Portugal.

The gold 6,400 Reis (or 'Half Johanna') of Brazil was one of the chosen money denominations during the Australian Proclamation of 1800 by Philip Gidley King, the Governor of New South Wales. In order to retain coinage within the colony, each type was given a high face value – the Half Johanna was revalued as Two Pounds.



PORTUGAL. BRAZIL. 1784 Half Johanna Maria I and Peter III. .917 gold, 31.5mm. This Proclamation coin was worth 2 Pounds.

When the French invaded Portugal the British government urged, the entire House of Braganza to flee in 1807 to establish a government in exile in Brazil along with the royal family. During her move from the royal palace to the docks she was heard screaming throughout the trip. Due to her religious zeal a potential cause was her incestuous ancestry, she had married her uncle; this is substantiated by two of her sisters who had similar conditions. After they left the Duke of Wellington landed in Portugal which was the start of the peninsular war. Maria was treated by Francis Willis, the same physician who attended the British King George III.



George III (1760-1820), gold Guinea, 1792 one point of note about this coin is that the lettering of the legend on both sides was placed very close to the edge of the coin in order to prevent clipping and filing.

Obverse Description

Laureate bust of George III facing right; around, GEORGIVS III DEI GRATIA (translation; George III by the Grace of God)

Reverse Description

Crowned spade-shaped shield quartered with the arms of England and Scotland impaled, France, Ireland and the Electorate of Brunswick and Luneburg; around, M B F ET H REX F D B ET L D S R I A T ET E; below shield, 1790. (translation from obverse to reverse, George III by the Grace of God King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Duke of Brunswick and Luneburg, Archi-Thesaurius and Elector of the Holy Roman Empire).

Barrie showed an **Egyptian** bi-metal one-pound coin with an image of the Sphinx and also a double-headed medallion.

The S.A. Museum overhead projector failed to work yet again and the society decided to authorise Mick to purchase a new projector for our use (which was purchased in time for the March meeting).

**Annual General Meeting and Monthly Meeting No. 983, Royal Society Room, Adelaide,
17 March 2022.**

Meeting Commenced at 8pm, after a numismatic bourse from 7pm.

Present: 21 members, 7 apologies.



President's Award for Best Numismatic Presentation/s during year: The President announced that David was the recipient of the award for his many thoughtful, detailed and interesting presentations including his Bryant & May matches service medal. Image above left.

President's Report and Numismatic Address: The President gave a short Report on the activities of the Society over the past 12 months and commented on the challenges brought about by COVID 19 causing the cancellations of the January 2022 meeting; he also spoke about the 2022 Coin & Banknote Expo which we have booked for 1-3rd October. Membership in the Society is 67 members and attendances at meetings have regularly been 16 or more. The passing of long-time members Maurice and Ray was also noted.



He then presented his Numismatic Address which detailed his interest in the Boer War and then presented two banknotes relating to the **Siege of Mafeking**. The Secretary gave a vote of thanks for his Report and Address, which was warmly received with appropriate acclamation.

A.G.M. continued

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, Paul S. and Paul 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.

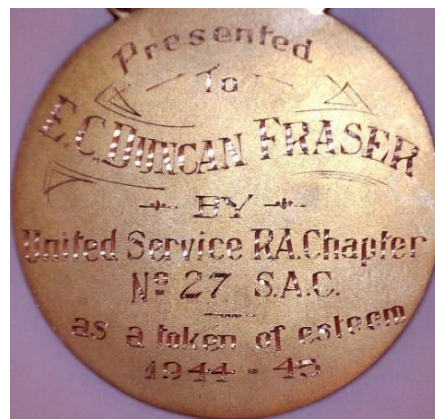
Honorariums to the Secretary and President were awarded to cover their out of pocket expenses.

General Business: Richard spoke about the upcoming NSSA Coin & Banknote Expo to be held on 1-2-3 October 2022 and it was decided to attempt a 3 day show as the Monday 3rd October is a public holiday.

GENERAL MEETING 983

Attendance as per A.G.M.

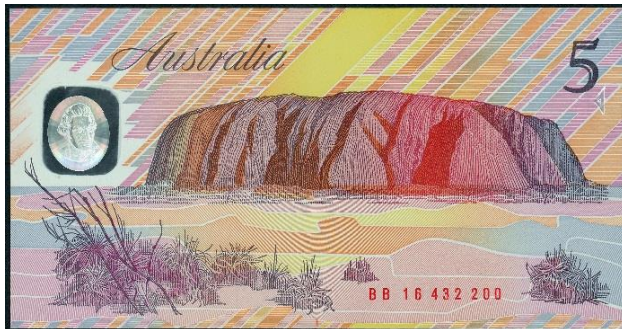
Door Prize: Won by Barrie. **Numismatics:**



Barrie – continued next page.



Barrie showed his father's **Lodge jewels** and regalia including a 1944 penny and circa 1944 medallions issued to his father when he became a Lodge Grand Master. Barrie also spoke about other Lodge medals and **ingots** (above) that were produced in Adelaide.



Mick gave an illustrated talk on a previously unknown design of the **New Note Series \$5 c.1988** designed by the late Bruce Stewart with the Queen on the front and **Ayers Rock** on the back, containing an OVD of Captain Cook similar to that used on the Bicentenary \$10. Full story, April 2022 CAB magazine.

What's on in/around Adelaide: Brighton Market 2nd & 4th Sundays, Port Adelaide Market every Sunday, Gepps Cross market every Sunday.

Bryant & May 50 Years Long Service Medal

researched by **Alan Middleton** and **David Figg** and compiled by **Alan Downer**
and with details from 'The Brymay Magazine' provided by **George Page**

Following the article published in MLN 448, pages 32-35, **David Figg** contacted me about a Bryant & May Long Service Medal in Silver, that he had recently acquired. He asked if it was possible to discover any information about the recipient, a Mr. Roland Stratton who was awarded a 50 year B&M long service medal with a hallmark for 1942.

Bryant & May awarded 25 year long service medals made of bronze (1923-1958) and 50 year long service medals made of silver (1921-1958), and being made of silver these were hallmarked.



Above: Bryant & May 50 Years Long Service Medal in Silver awarded to Roland Stratton
(Obverse and Reverse shown)

Size: 45mm diameter, 4mm thick, and Weight: 45grams.



G&S Co. Ltd.



Hallmarks meaning England, London and 1942 respectively

David Figg has discovered that the Bryant & May long service medals were supplied by 'The Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company Ltd'. (1880-1952) This is confirmed, from the details inside the lid of a case that a medal came in, which states: 'By appointment to HM The King - The Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company Ltd - 112 Regent Street, London W1', (see page 25) and also from the hallmark on the medal awarded to Roland Stratton which is marked 'G&S Co. Ltd.'

A bronze Bryant & May long service medal is shown in its case on page 25. Bronze medals are 38mm diameter, 3mm thick, and Weight 35grams. They are smaller than silver medals.

I asked **Alan Middleton** if he could find any details. His research is recorded below:

Roland Stratton was born Louis Roeland Vandersteenstraten 1st August 1874 in Southwark, South London. His father was, Hubertus Constomitus Lodewijk Van Der Steenstraten and his English mother was, Rosetta Elizabeth Brown.

In the 1881 Census Roland was known as Louis, a scholar (school boy) living at home in Greenwich, London with his parents and four siblings. His father, Hubertus was born in Holland, and recorded as a British Subject, with his occupation, recorded in the 1874 Baptism records as a 'Tallow Melter'.

In the 1891 Census, the whole family had moved to Abercromby, Liverpool where Louis was now known as Louis Vandersteenstraten, with his occupation as an 'Engineer Apprentice'. He was age 16 but did not give where he worked. The family were quite affluent and had a servant. His mother was a 'Pub Licensed Victualler' and it said her husband Hubertus (Herbert in English) was supported by his children.

Roland Stratton had a brother, Philip Colins Vandersteenstraten, born 1877, married Lucilla Kennerley January 1900 and they had a son Philip John Stratton born 25 June 1900.

In the 1901 Census, Roland was now known as Louis R. Stratton and was recorded as a 'Mechanical Engineer' still living at home in Bootle, Liverpool.

In the 1911 Census, he was still single and now known as Roland Stratton working as an 'Engineer (in the) Match Industry' still living in Bootle.

The 1911 Census also tells us that Lucilla is now a widow, living with her son Philip with Roland Stratton. I do wonder if Roland brought up his nephew Philip junior as his own, co-habiting with his sister-in-law?

This incredible story continues to have "twist and turns", as an article on Ancestry informs us that Lucilla Stratton (Roland's sister-in-law living with him as his 'Housekeeper' in the 1911 Census) was presumed lost at sea at Fathers Point, Canada, 29 May 1914. She was a 'Stewardess' on the ship 'Empress of Ireland' and the entry says she was supposed drowned by her employer Canadian Pacific Railways who owned the shipping liners.

Lucilla Stratton had a horrific death and as she was a Stewardess would most likely have been looking after her passengers rather than herself.

From the 'official Canadian Pacific Railway Company statement', the catastrophe was the greatest loss of life in the St. Lawrence river with over 1,000 deaths.

On the 29th May 1914, the 14,000 tonne trans-Atlantic liner 'Empress of Ireland' enroute from Quebec to Liverpool off Father Point east of Quebec at about 2 am in dense fog, was rammed amidships below the water-line by the heavily laden 6,000 tonne Norwegian coal carrier 'Storstad' (built by Armstrong, Whitforth of Newcastle). The 'Empress of Ireland' sank in 14 minutes in 16 fathoms of water. The loss of life was so high because it was during the night and most of the passengers and crew were in their bunks. On the impact, those that could rushed to the deck clad only in their night ware in panic. As it was bitterly cold and only a few degrees above freezing, there was little hope for the unfortunate passengers who were thrown or jumped into the river. Only under half of the lifeboats could be launched, even if there had been time, as the angle of the decks when it keeled over rendered launching operation very difficult. Most of the passengers saved were travelling third class, and the very luxury of their surroundings proved the undoing of first and second class passengers, for the cabins were flooded and the occupants trapped.

This dreadful event must have traumatized her son Philip and brother-in-law Roland. It makes the overseas trips Roland took (detailed below) even more remarkable as he had to travel on these liners across the Atlantic on business and had to put this tragedy behind him. His first trip in 1920 was only 8 years after the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.

In the 1921 Census Rowland (spelt with a 'w') is age 46 and single, and Philip John Stratton age 21 and single are 'boarders' living with Alfred Edward and Martha Lockley (Roland was living with her in 1939 and they married in 1945) and their three children in Seaforth, West Derby, Liverpool. Rowland is a 'Works Manager' working for Bryant & May at Litherland, (this is the old Diamond Match Works factory) and Philip is an 'Engineer at the same place.

The 1921 Census also states that Rowland was born in London, Middlesex which is different from the 1881 Census, which recorded it as Southwark.

On the inside front cover of the November 1924 (Volume IV Number 2) Brymay magazine, R. Stratton, is listed as the General Superintendent of the Mersey Works. (this is at Garston acquired from Maguire, Paterson and Palmer Co. Ltd. in 1923).

During the 1920's and 1930's Roland Stratton made overseas business trips on the fabulous liners, traveling in style, representing Bryant & May. The details below are probably not complete, but it gives a flavour of the type of travel he used to visit these countries. He travelled '1st' or what was then called 'Cabin Class' in the height of luxury, for example to New York and Cape Town.

As he was a 'Manager' and a trained Mechanical Engineer in the match industry, it is fair to surmise he was looking at match making machines and match production on these business trips. In Cape Town, Bryant & May had a large stake in the South Africa Lion Match Company whilst in New York in the 1920's, the Diamond Match Company had a match factory.

From the ship manifest of his November 1920 trip to New York on the 'Celtic' White Star Line, he was a 46 year old 'Manager', 5ft 10" with brown hair, grey eyes, with a turn in his left eye, and he was travelling with a friend George Howell. He was then living at 1, Workfield Road, Bootle, Liverpool.

He was in Cape Town, South Africa in the summer of 1926 then living at Maybrook, Victoria Road, Crosby, Liverpool and in the Spring of 1934, he again travelled to New York on Cunard's 'Scythia' and returned to Liverpool on the 'Laconia'. Interestingly he gave his address as Bryant & May, Bow and not at Liverpool.

The 1938 Liverpool City Directory, gives Philip Stratton's (Roland Stratton's nephew) occupation as a Foreman. (at the same address in the 1939 Register). Roland Stratton is living at Glenroyd, Eldon Avenue, Blundellsands, Crosby, Liverpool (the same address in the 1939 Register) and is a 'Manager Bryant & May Ltd'.

In the 1939 Register, Philip J. Stratton's, occupation was 'Chief Maintenance Engineer Match Factory', married to Miriam in 1923, and with a son Gerald age 13 at school.

Also in the 1939 Register, Roland Stratton was still living in the same house 'Glenroyd', in Crosby, Liverpool with his partner Martha Lockley and their servant. Roland's occupation is recorded as 'Match Manufacture'.

Roland Stratton and Martha Lockley were married in Southport, Lancashire in July 1945.

In the Autumn 1946 edition of 'The Brymay Magazine' on page 45, we read: Mr. P.J. Stratton has been appointed Manager of the Match Works, Leeds, to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. G. F. FitzGibbon. Mr. Stratton is a nephew of Mr. Roland Stratton, the late Manager of our ill-fated Diamond Works and now the Superintendent at Mersey Works. He received a B&M training, though he comes to us now from W.J. Morgan & Co.'s factory at Manchester. (see also page 11 for another reference to Philip and Roland Stratton).

Roland died age 75 in Liverpool 14 March 1950. He left an Estate of £17,115, a substantial sum, in his birth name Louis Roeland Vandersteenstraten. There appears to be no record that Roland had any children. The death of Roland Stratton was recorded in 'The Brymay Magazine', Summer 1950 edition on page 15.

We know that the 50 year Bryant & May long service medal was hallmarked for 1942. But did Roland receive his medal that year or later?

The answer has been found in the Summer 1946 edition of 'The BRYMAY Magazine' on page 36, under the title: A Notable Occasion - March 6th, 1946 saw the completion of 50 years' service by Mr. Roland Stratton in the Match-making industry, and to celebrate the event the foreman of Mersey Works, who comprise a number who had many years' service at Diamond Works, invited him to be their guest at a dinner party given in his honour at the State Restaurant, Liverpool. Mr. C. C. Ward joined the company, and another welcome guest was Mr. Phil Stratton, who made the journey from Manchester to join his former colleagues in their tribute to the "Guv'nor".

We know Roland was an 'Apprentice Engineer' in April 1891 recorded in the Census, age 16 and probably started his apprenticeship age 14 in 1889. It is likely that his "Service" would not have counted until he was 18 years old at least i.e. in 1892, however service with Bryant & May was only recognised from 1896. As he was born in 1874 he would have been 72 years old in 1946, meaning his service only started from the age of 22. Why?

It is pure conjecture, but in 1895, the Diamond Match Company (of USA) took over another match company, Collard Kendall & Company, Liverpool commencing to produce their products in 1896 in competition to Bryant & May. Roland most likely started working for Collard Kendall & Company, moved to Diamond as part of that takeover and which Bryant & May then took over in 1901. In the 1920's Bryant & May moved to Garston, Liverpool and we now know he was there in 1924. In any case, his service with Bryant & May was recognised from 1896 which certainly fits this scenario.

Roland reached 25 years' service in 1921, but would not have been awarded a 25 Year Long Service Medal, as the 25 Year Long Service Medal was not introduced until 1923.



Left:
Bryant & May 25 Year
Long Service Medal,
shown here in its
presentation case.

Above, right:
Enlarged view
of the medal.



Below, right:
Enlarged detail
printed inside the
presentation case lid.

