



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 144 – March 2023.

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.

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, no text or SMS messages please, or 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 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 text and 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 receive their emailed newsletters and these are also being forwarded on to our financial members by email.

OFFICE BEARERS elected at the AGM 16.3.23.

President: Steve H.
 Secretary/Publicity Officer: Richard
 Treasurer: Virginia
 Vice Presidents: David and Mick
 Councillors: Barrie, Paul S, Joe P.
 Auditor: Paul.J.
 NAA representative: Barrie
 Editor of Newsletter/Journal: Mick

Meeting No 993, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 19th January 2023.

Present: 16 members, Steve acting Chairman, 6 apologies.

Before the January meeting at 7pm, there was an informal meeting of members interested in helping at the annual Coin Expo which we hold each year. Topics discussed include the date of our next Expo, which we have penciled in but not yet confirmed as 7th-8th October 2023. 10am to 5pm on the Saturday and 10am until 4 pm on Sunday. We may push back the commencement of Saturday night dinner to 8pm instead of 7.30pm.

Also discussed was the purchase of more signage for the Expo and whether or not to charge an entry fee. David and Richard will look into the booking of the venue and the costs and parking fees for the Expo with the authority that runs the venue in the next few weeks and Mark has kindly agreed to help with organizing the signage for the next Expo.

This year, in AUGUST, will be our 1000th meeting, held in conjunction with NAA convention at the Naval & Military Club, which Barrie has kindly helped to organize. This event will include a Numismatic Bourse on the Friday and is a chance to look at numismatics and speak with other collectors from around Australia. The NAA convention is a chance to further your numismatic knowledge by attending talks about Numismatics that other people give. We need a few of our members to present a paper (give a talk) at this event. So, if you have a subject that is dear to you, please step up and help make it an interesting event.

Numismatics:



Mick - Everyone makes mistakes. Some are minor and others major. But nothing is more intriguing to collectors than when mistakes are made with the printing of our banknotes. Banknotes need to be perfect so that the public can distinguish between what is real and what is false. While every effort is made to produce a perfect banknote with its multiple layers of production, many mistakes have happened in the past, much to the anguish of the printers and the delight of banknote collectors. Mick showed a variety of banknote errors and his new book on banknote errors, which is proving to be very popular with collectors. On the other side of numismatics, an interesting error coin sold recently in an auction in Adelaide. Described as an “alien” error coin with antennae below Queen, sold for hammer price of \$820.



Paul J. showed two **Byzantine coins of Maurice Tiberius**, Byzantine ruler from 582 to 602 AD. A gold solidus and a copper follis. Maurice Tiberius was a capable ruler but was held back due to lack of money. He worked hard to delay or even stop the crumbling of Justinian's Empire and attempted to pilot the Empire through one of its worst stages of instability. His military experience was quite extensive; as is shown in a military handbook he authored called Strategikon, which is feted as the first and only advanced combined arms theory written until World War II. An advocate of literature and learning, he is also considered a Saint in the Orthodox Church. Also shown, a gold tremissis of Phocas (602-610 AD).



Terry showed a **Piece of Eight** from 1770 and a **British Trade Dollar** from 1908. These were typical of trading coinage used during the 16th to early 20th century and are large, handsome looking silver coins. Also shown was a Straits Settlements 1907 silver dollar which was minted in Bombay.



Mark showed **sample strikes the Perth Mint** made from the 1980s to promote some of their coinage, including a sample 1 oz gold coin strike in steel and a silver-plated aluminum facsimile of a one kilo Perth Mint coin. Some of these types were incorrectly sold privately as "Uniface Trial Strikes"



Alan showed 1c coin with filled dies and a 2c coin with slight damage to the 0 of 1970.



Barrie showed his **Vietnam Dog Tags** and also some silver Dog Tags (ID Discs) that he had made for his previous military service in India with the UN.



Richard showed a silver **shekel of Tyre** from the period 19 to 20 AD, struck during the lifetime of Jesus Christ and most likely the type of money paid to Judas to betray Jesus.



also shown at the meeting.

Meeting No 994, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 16th February 2023.

Present: David in Chair plus 16 members, 7 apologies, one visitor D.S.

Door Prize: Hardeep generously donated two bottles of wine which were won by F. S. and Neil.

General Business:

This year, in AUGUST, will be our 1000th meeting, held in conjunction with NAA convention at the Naval & Military Club, which Barrie has kindly helped to organize. This event will include a Numismatic Bourse on the Friday and is a chance to look at numismatics and speak with other collectors from around Australia. The NAA convention is a chance to further your numismatic knowledge by attending talks about Numismatics that other people give.

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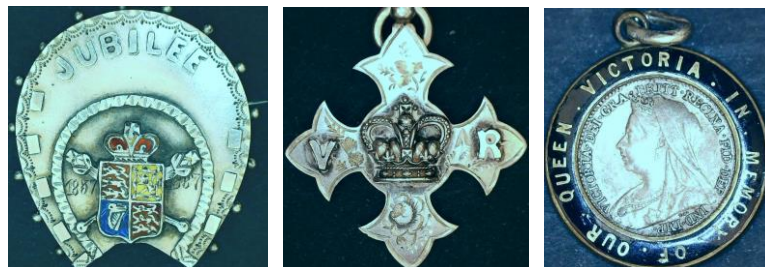
DEW has confirmed our booking for our 6th Coin & Banknote Expo, to be held Sat/Sun 7-8th October at the Torrens Parade Ground.

Next meeting is our AGM. We need someone to help Joe share the tea and coffee duties who will be paid an allowance by the NSSA to cover costs. A volunteer to help alternate with Joe for this duty would be appreciated.

Numismatics:



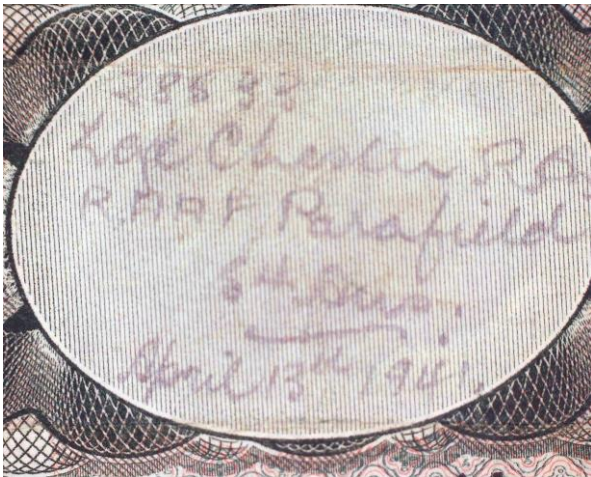
Mick showed a variety of banknote prototypes or **trials/patterns for banknote designs** that were never officially issued. His upcoming 300+ page book on this subject **IN COLOUR** should prove to be an interesting read. "Australian Decimal Banknotes & Designs".



Paul S. showed three **commemorative pieces from Queen Victoria**, two commemorating the 1887 Jubilee and also a 1901 Memorial piece and three Australian WW2 period military “sweetheart” badges, a popular collecting area, including a badge with a map of Australia and a boomerang and a RAN sweetheart badge. Images, previous page.



Terry showed two **Han dynasty** (206BC-221AD) Chinese cash coins, amongst the earliest examples of Chinese money produced. Also discussed was a chart showing what amount of Cash coins were used to buy particular items, such as a horse.



Mark showed a 1938 one-pound note with the inscription signed 28533 **Ross Albert Chester** Parafield Airport April 13th 1941.

Helen showed an **1886 GB Queen** Victoria sixpence in high grade with mint lustre.



M. H. showed a silver drachm from **Syria circa 150BC** of Alexander Balas, showing Pan seated on a rock, a good quality, sharply struck ancient coin (above left).

Richard showed a **silver penny of Edward I** (1272-1307) from the London mint (above right).

**Monthly Meeting 995 & Annual General Meeting, Royal Society Room, Adelaide,
16th March 2023.**

Present: 18 members, 7 apologies, 3 visitors DS, VP, BT.

Treasurer/Auditor 2022 annual report acceptance was deferred until the April meeting.

President's Award for best Numismatic presentation during the year: was won by Paul S.

President's Report & Numismatic Presentation: Gerry gave a summary of the year and presented a range of early SACA (South Australian Cricket Association) badges and passes and spoke about them.

Election of Office Bearers: (see page 2)

Special thanks to Mark for his work on the NSSA website and Mick for his work on the photos at meetings and the newsletter.

Subscriptions: Remain at \$30 p/a, the same as last year.

Tea/Coffee: Gerry and Joe have kindly assumed this responsibility and will be provided with an Honorarium to cover their costs.

Door Prize: H. R. generously donated two bottles of wine which were won by Barrie and Virginia, and the new ACR was won by Neil.

NAA report: This year, in AUGUST, will be our 1000th meeting, held in conjunction with NAA convention at the Naval & Military Club, which Barrie has kindly helped to organize. This event will include a Numismatic Bourse on the Friday and is a chance to look at numismatics and speak with other collectors from around Australia. The NAA convention is a chance to further your numismatic knowledge by attending talks about Numismatics given by other people.

We need a few of our members to present a paper (give a talk) at this event. So, if you have a subject that is dear to you, please step up and contact Barrie and help make it an interesting event.

DEW has confirmed our booking for our 6th Coin & Banknote Expo, to be held Sat/Sun 7-8th October 2023 at the Torrens Parade Ground. We need to organize signage, an EFTPOS machine for the NSSA and shirts for our members. Are there any volunteers to help with this?

Numismatics:



Mick's star note collection on display at the Bank of Adelaide in 1979 at the launch of his first book.

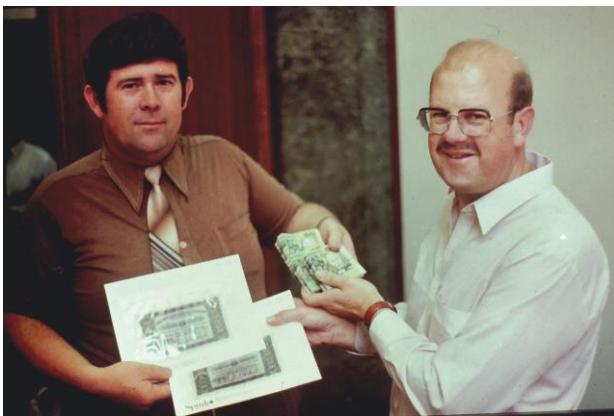
Mick spoke about the **32 star notes he swapped for two twenty-pound** notes in the early 1980s.

Shown on the previous page are his star collection by serial letter prefixes displayed when he launched his first book in the Bank of Adelaide in 1979. He had a lot of duplicate star notes in his collection, many in consecutive runs.

In 1981 the first two varieties of the twenty-pound note were put up for auction through Spink in Sydney. A dealer wanted his spare star notes and he wanted the two twenty-pound notes.



He agreed to sell them to the dealer for \$13,000 if that was sufficient to buy the two 20 pound notes. He won them for \$6,500 each and the deal went ahead. His 32 spare star notes over several years had cost him face value at around a total of \$100. The photo below shows him handing over the \$13,000 to Mark Freehill at Spink for the two notes.



Michael P. (Mick) Vort-Ronald
Ex-president and Honorary Life Fellow
Numismatic Society of South Australia.
Admitted to the International Bank Note
Society Hall of Fame, U.S.A., 2017.

Ex-president & Honorary Life Member,
Yorke Peninsula Collectables Club
Adelaide Gem & Mineral Club
Mineralogical Society of South Australia

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In 1982 the third variety of twenty pounds came up for auction through Spink in Sydney. He put in a postal bid of \$4,250, but it failed to sell. In 1976 the same note had appeared in the Max Stern auction and reportedly sold for \$32,000, but the recipient could not pay. He was able to purchase the note at the reserve price of \$5,000, making him one of the very few people to ever own all three varieties of the twenty-pound notes at the same time. The Collins/Allen note is now on his new business card above.

When they sold in his auction in 1988, what had cost him a total of \$18,000 (or \$5,100 if you just count the cost of the spare star notes) sold for a total of \$33,300. Today, all three would cost you well over \$100,000. Such is the nature of banknote collecting. A more detailed story will appear in the new ACR.



Paul showed a 1976 medal struck for the **50th anniversary of the NSSA** which was produced in silver from the Pobjoy Mint, number 37 awarded to Norm Gaunt, with an error, the Adelaide pound dated 1832 instead of 1852.



P. J. showed a **60th anniversary medal of WW2 awarded to Czechs** who made a contribution to the Allied war effort.



Paul J. showed a **1807 bronze anti-slavery medal** with the Islamic inscription Sale of Slaves prohibited and English inscription, We Are All Brethren.



Richard showed a paperweight containing **4 English coins of different rulers**, Charles II, Anne, George III and Victoria.