



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 147, December 2023.

Society meetings are currently held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, 7.30 pm. in Saphil House, Grey Court, Adelaide.

Postal address **P.O. Box 312 Magill 5072.**

For further 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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

NEXT MEETING at the new venue Saphil house Thursday 18 January 2024, 7.30 pm.

Meeting 1002 at the Army Navy & Military Club, 19th October 2023.

Present: 18 members, 10 apologies, 2 visitors J McG and M. P.

Correspondence: Piero sent an email from Japan that has been forwarded to the members and was discussed at the meeting. Piero seems to be having an interesting time in Japan.

Peter L. emailed with details of current Wedgwood exhibition in Adelaide, which the NSSA is looking at attending. This email has been sent to members. More details at November meeting.

Coin Expo report:

The Coin Expo was held on 7th and 8th October. A successful event, it was well attended. Many people helped to make this event work and sincere thanks to all who helped.

General Business:

We changed the way this meeting was held.

Instead of having the business or minutes side of the meeting first, we commenced with Show and Tell. We then had a break for a chat and a beverage, before continuing with the meeting.

This format seemed to work well and was overall liked by the members, so we will try it again in the future.

We also decided to start the meetings a littler earlier, to commence at 7.30 pm, rather than 7.45pm.

Our Christmas meeting will be held at SAPHIL House 22 Gray Court Adelaide, Thursday 21 December, commencing at 6.30 pm. We will have a bourse (buy/sell) for an hour or so, followed by our Christmas meeting. Please bring some food and drink and reflect on another year with your fellow members. Gray Court is located south of the Central Market, it is a one-way street that runs in a northerly direction between Sturt St and Wright St, Adelaide. There is usually parking on Sturt or Wright St. Vehicles can be driven to the venue and unloaded, then parked on either Sturt or Wright St.

This will give members the chance to examine SAPHIL House and share food and drink and a bourse and meeting in a less formal atmosphere than the Army Naval & Military Club.

Door Prize: Won by David.

Numismatics:

Paul J. spoke about and showed **Roman Imperial period coinage of Scipio and Sulla**. A silver denarius of Sulla, c 82 BC and a silver denarius from Scipio circa 47-46 BC as follows;

L. Sulla and L. Manlius Torquatus. 82 BC. AR Denarius (16.5mm, 3.97 g, 10h). Military mint moving with Sulla. Helmeted head of Roma facing right / Sulla driving triumphal quadriga right, holding branch and reins; above, Victory flying left, crowning him with laurel wreath.



These coins are part of the Roman Imperial series.



Scipio, next page.

The general feeling in Italy was definitely anti-Sullan; many people feared Sulla's wrath and remembered his extremely unpopular occupation of Rome during his consulship. The Senate moved against him and raised an army. Sulla had previously looted Asia and was able to advance quickly without the ransacking of the Italian countryside. Sulla's main opponents were Marius (Julius Caesar's uncle) and Scipio. Sulla summoned the Senate to the temple of Bellona (goddess of war). While giving a speech, he had three or four thousand Samnite prisoners butchered, to the shock of the attending senators.

Sulla marched to Praeneste and forced its siege to end, with Marius dead from suicide before its surrender.

Plutarch claims he knew Sulla's personal motto "no better friend, no worse enemy."

Scipio 47-46 BC Silver Denarius (18mm, 3.8g) North African mint Laureate head of Jupiter right / Elephant walking right.

Scipio who was based in North Africa was an opponent of Caesar. Scipio and the Pompeian's were overwhelmed by Caesar's forces at Thapsus on 6th Feb 46 BC. This was the last time elephants were used in battle in the west as Caesar order his archers to shoot at the elephants who then panicked and turned and trampled Scipio's army. Ten thousand of Caesar's enemies were killed in battle but those that survived the battle were put to the sword by Caesar's furious soldiers despite repeated orders to spare them

Much of his coinage was produced to finance operations against Caesar in the period 47-46 BC. It was reported to have said that Scipio put a per capita tax on slaves and children; he taxed columns, doors, grain, soldiers, weaponry, oarsmen, and machinery; if a name could be found for a thing that was seen as sufficient for making money from it he would tax it.



Mick showed photos and spoke about **“error” banknotes where the “errors” had been deliberately done**, ie scratching, rubbing and bleaching of notes.



Peter L. spoke about **Wedgwood 1789 medallion** reproduction and Adventure & Resolution medals and showed a framed page of “A Voyage to Botany Bay”.

Richard spoke about and showed a couple of 1910s and 1920s period **five-pound Australian banknotes that had been repaired/restored.**



David reported on the **BANGLADESH 2023 FIP SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION.**

Held in Dhaka, Bangladesh at the Shilpakala Academy from Friday 29/9 to Monday 2/10 it attracted entries from 15 different countries and comprised 400 frames of exhibits.

Two different finish medals were struck for the occasion, one in Gold finish for the Judges & Commissioners and one in Bronze finish for the exhibitors.

Measuring 60mm in diameter, 5mm in thickness and weighing 80 grams, the obverse has the wording "Bangladesh 2023" both in English and Bengali plus Bangladesh Philatelic Federation (BPF) around the edge plus the image of a native deer in the centre (the logo for the exhibition) which inhabits the forests in the north of the country along with the Bengal Tiger. I wonder if the deer population is on the decline or not?

The reverse has around the edge "FIP Sponsorship International Stamp Exhibition" September 29 to 02 October 2023 and in the centre the logo of the Bangladesh Philatelic Federation and the number 25 celebrating their Silver Jubilee as a Federation.

As Australian Commissioner and as an Exhibitor, I was lucky enough to receive one of each type of medal.

Also produced by Enschede, were two banknote style souvenirs with a perforated cinderella stamp superimposed and bearing the denominations of 300 and 500 Taka local currency, which is around AUD\$4.00 and AUD\$6.66.

Meeting 1003 at the Army Navy & Military Club, 16th November 2023.

Present: 17 members, 11 apologies, one visitor H. K.

New Member: M.R. was welcomed to the NSSA to the acclamation of the room.

Coin Expo report:

We have tried to book the venue for next year, but to date the people running it have not been very cooperative.

General Business:

The NSSA will be 100 in 2026 which is fast approaching. We need to do a medal to mark this event. What will we put on this medal? This involves considerable lead time, so we should start planning now. A suggestion has been made by Richard to put the images of four life members on the medal, being Barrie, Mick, David R. and Peter L. This suggestion received positive and negative comment. Time to think of a theme for this medal acceptable to all. Any suggestions? Anyone want to be on a medal sub-committee?

Our next meeting will be held at SAPHIL House 22 Gray Court Adelaide, Thursday 21 December, commencing at approx. 6.00 pm. We will have a bourse (buy/sell) for an hour or so, followed by our Christmas meeting. Please bring some food and drink and reflect on another year with your fellow members. Gray Court is located south of the Central Market, it is a one-way street that runs in a northerly direction between Sturt St and Wright St, Adelaide. There is usually parking on Sturt or Wright St. Vehicles can be driven to the venue and unloaded, then parked on either Sturt or Wright St.

This will give members the chance to examine SAPHIL House and share food and drink and a bourse and meeting in a less formal atmosphere than the Naval & Military Club. No formal dress code applies.

Numismatics:

Paul J. spoke about and showed an **Electrum Hekte from Lesbos** circa 377-326 BC and also an Athens silver tetradrachm, minted in the period 393-294 BC.



Lesbos, Mytilene, Hekte, 377-326 BC Electrum (alloy of gold and silver but is sometimes found with traces of platinum, copper the gold content averaged 40% to 41%). Sixth of a Stater (2.53g, 10.5mm, Chian Standard).

Obverse: Head of Apollo Karneios facing right (festival celebrating "the god of flocks, herds and of the harvest of the vintage, wearing the Horn of Ammon. Ammon, originally was Amon-Ra, an Egyptian deity, whose popularity grew over the years. Alexander the Great often referred to Zeus-Ammon as his true father, and after his death, currency depicted him adorned with the Horns of Ammon as a symbol of his divinity

Reverse: Eagle standing to right, its head facing back to left, linear square border surrounds; all within incuse square.



ATTICA, ATHENS. 393-294 BC. Silver Tetradrachm 16.78, 21mm. Third type tetradrachm struck during the Hellenistic period. Head of Athena who is an ancient Greek goddess associated with wisdom, warfare, and handicraft. Athena was regarded as the patron of various

cities across Greece, particularly the city of Athens; The Parthenon is dedicated to her. In Greek mythology, the owl was chosen as a symbol of Athena because it was a bird associated with wisdom and knowledge. Athena is noted to have created an olive tree on the spot when she competed against Poseidon in their clash for Athens. Owl with AOE (meaning of the Athenians) in field with an olive sprig.

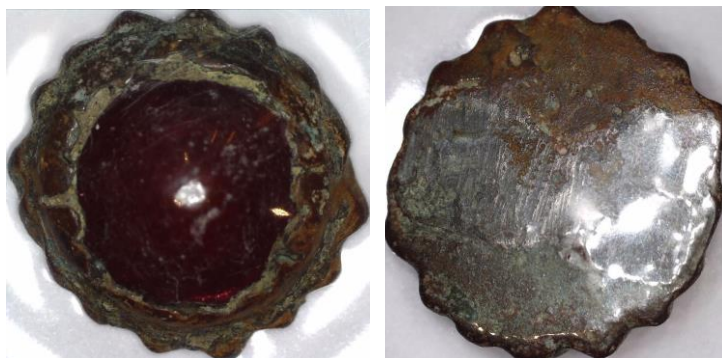
The Athenian tetradrachm was the international trade currency of choice, with hoards found in every part of the ancient world. The coin was known for consistency in good metal composition and full weight, around 17 grams. It was imitated in several Eastern cultures including **Egypt** and principalities in the Holy Lands.



Mick showed a 30-minute video taken on 11 December 2008 of the **Banking and Currency Museum** he owned and operated in Kadina 1988-2008. It was shown again at his 80th birthday party attended by several members in December.



Peter L. spoke about and showed various **New Guinea WW2 Head Tax tokens**.



G. R. showed an ancient **Roman artifact with a jewelry insert** and donated several WW2 Military books to the members.

Richard spoke about and showed a 10/- note where the paper has been **split horizontally** in half.



Allan spoke about and showed a 2023 \$5 World Heritage Coin.



A member spoke about his experiences and exposed some issues regarding the RAM Products that he purchased at the 2023 NSSA Expo. See his article on the last page of this newsletter.

What's On.

SA Farmers Market, 7am-noon, cost \$1.50 Held every Sunday
Brighton Market, 8am – noon, free entry, every 2nd and 4th Sunday

Meeting 1004 held at SAPHIL House, 21st December 2023 commenced at 6 pm with Numismatic bourse, followed by main meeting at 7.30pm.

Present: 22 members, 8 apologies.

Coin Expo report:

We have tried to book the venue for next year. The people running it have not been very co-operative. They want to do a “de brief” of last show, whatever that means, before booking the next one. However, they keep putting us off to actually get this “de brief” done. Watch this space.

Door Prizes: Won by 7 members.

General Business:

Our next meeting will be held at SAPHIL House 22 Gray Court Adelaide, Thursday 18th January 2024, commencing at approx 7.30 pm. Gray Court is located south of the Central Market, it is a one way street that runs in a northerly direction between Sturt St and Wright St, Adelaide. There is usually parking on Sturt or Wright St. Vehicles can be driven to the venue and unloaded, then parked on either Sturt or Wright St.

Members voted at the December meeting to hold future meetings at SAPHIL House, rather than the Naval & Military Club. This is a more inclusive venue. The NSSA would like to thank Barrie for his assistance in providing the Naval & Military club as a venue for the NSSA, which really helped us out over the last year. Thank you very much for your help Barrie. We look forward to holding our Expo dinner and possible other functions at the Naval & Military club in the future.

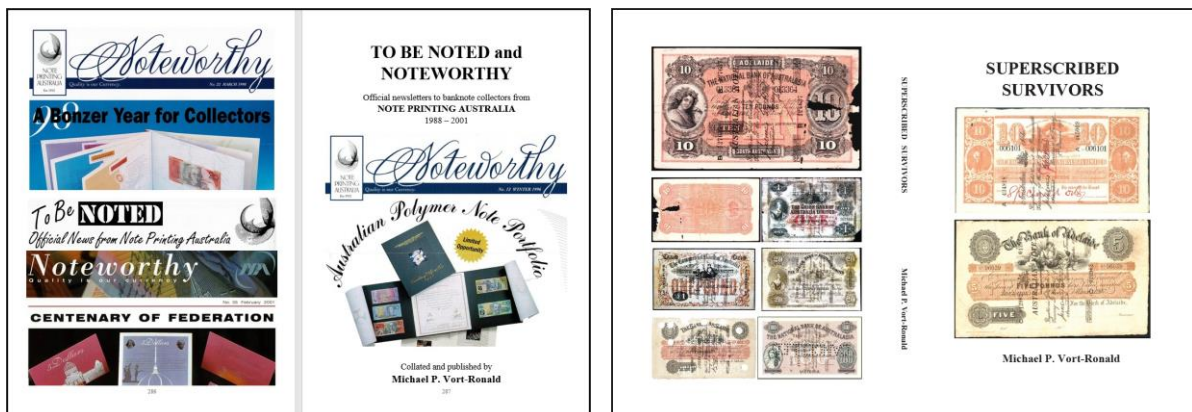
Numismatics:

Paul J. spoke about and showed a **silver tetradrachm coin of Cappadocia** with the titles of Antiochos VII, struck circa 120-90 BC.



Cappadocian Kingdom in the name of Antiochos VII. Circa 138-129BC, silver tetradrachm; 28.6mm, 15.94 grams. Struck posthumously in the period between 129BC to circa 80BC. OBV: Diademed head of Antiochos VII bust right. REV: (ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ), Athena standing left, supporting wreath-bearing Nike left on right hand & resting left on grounded shield, vertical spear in back, Monogram in left field; & all within laurel wreath at sides of Athena.

The Cappadocian Kingdom was ruled by fifteen rulers between 331BC to 17AD and these rulers came from three prominent families. The kingdom was located amongst its more powerful neighbours, the kings were often involved in beneficial marriage alliances, such as with the Mithridatic dynasty and the Seleucid dynasty. This coin has a strong Seleukid flavour. Cappadocia was eventually absorbed into the Roman Empire without a fight. In 1071 the Cappadocian Kingdom was lost by the Byzantine Empire to the Seljuq Turks.



Mick showed his latest 280-page book on all super-scribed surviving notes, including 40 images of experimental notes from the RBA, most never before published. Also books about One million numbered banknotes and Note Printing Australia Newsletters, and gave to each member present a **souvenir “banknote”** commemorating his 80th birthday, as shown on the next page. For details of some of his 170 publications, visit yp-connect.net/~vortronald

Michael P. Vort-Ronald
 "O. B. E" (Over b...dy Eighty)
 Celebrating 80 years of age in December 2023.
 Queen's Scout. Police Sergeant. Museum owner.
 Historian, writer, publisher, collector.
 Honorary Life Fellow, Numismatic Society S.A.
 Honorary Life Member, Mineralogical Society S.A.,
 Adelaide Gem and Mineral Club and
 Yorke Peninsula Collectables Club.
 2017 Admitted to the Hall of Fame of the
 International Bank Note Society, U.S.A.



James Hunt Deacon F.N.S. c 1932. Honorary Life Fellow

Served in the Coin Room from 1918 to 1966

Number 1 Membership of the Numismatic Society of South Australia

Held all Council positions in the NSSA

Represented the NSSA throughout the world

Wrote 'The Ingots and Assay Office Pieces' of South Australia'. c.1953



Peter L. spoke about the coin room in the SA museum and various past members of the NSSA including Bev. Towler, James Hunt Deakin, Syd Hagley, Ron Grieg and David Matthews.



V. P. showed the latest \$1 coin of Charles III (below) and also 2003 \$1 Suffragettes coin with dark tone.



Helen spoke about and showed an **Egypt 1916 5 Piastres** coin. See above.

Gerry spoke about and donated a book about \$2 coins from Roger McNeice.

Barrie spoke about possible designs for our Centenary Medallion with NSSA Logo and bursting meteorites.

What's On.

SA Farmers Market, 7am-noon, cost \$1.50 Held every Sunday.

Brighton Market, 8am – noon, free entry, every 2nd and 4th Sunday

Pt Elliott Antiques & Collectables 29/30th Jan 10-4pm, \$3 entry fee.

Lions Hahndorf Collectables Fair, 21 Jan 6am to noon, \$5 entry fee.



Christmas meeting munchies.

My experience at the Adelaide Coin Fair 7–8 October 2023, or,
 What is the Royal Australian Mint up to? by “A member”.

As well as selling a range of their special collector products the Royal Australian Mint had also brought to this coin fair a stamping machine to countermark the 2023 Creatures of the Deep special Australian dollar coin.



I decided to purchase one of the stamped dollars as a memento of the occasion, and was encouraged by the mint’s assistant to buy the complete ‘set’ of five, which I trustingly did. On close examination, however, I discovered that the countermark was a generic map of Australia—it should have been an “A” for Adelaide, based on the fact that this same themed coin set of five was also produced with at least two other countermarks, the letter “C” for Canberra and “S” for Sydney.

I returned to the mint’s counter and complained about the lack of a letter to identify Adelaide, and was enthusiastically informed that this was the first time that this countermark had been used and therefore was special; but the assistant eventually had to admit that this countermark would be used at subsequent coin events and this made it generic.

He cheekily pointed out that the paper receipt for my purchase had the date printed on it and that this gave the set a unique connection. I must have looked crestfallen as I was hastily offered a cash refund, but decided that in spite of such stratagem I would keep the coins.

More surprises awaited me. Each of the coins in this set was individually sealed in a plastic lined card with printed design and as I examined each card I made a new discovery: each of the actual coins in this so-called set was identical and thus this set of five actually comprised a set of five cards which happened to house the same coin type.

And, on examining the actual design on the coin it became apparent that only two of the sea creatures depicted on the cards were shown on the coin itself—the Spiny King Crab and the Brittle Star. So, under the main title Creatures of the Deep (with subtitle on the cards Exploring the Abyss), the creatures called Dumbo Octopus, Bigfin Squid, and Cactus Urchin, did not appear on the actual dollar coin design but were figments of the imagination of someone employed by the mint.

To make the set appear more authentic each of the sea creatures had its Latin name added below its common name so as to give the set an educational touch.

And now I reflect on the name, The Royal Australian Mint, whose name is prefixed by the word Royal. This word gives the mint a connection to royalty, a name that conjures up a sense of reliability and authenticity, and I wonder whether stratagem, the word I used above, is a fair descriptor for what the mint is up to.

To make the set a unique memento I decided to write on each card in waterproof ink in small letters Adelaide Coin Fair and the date.