



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 155, December 2025.

Society meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, SAPHIL House 22 Gray Court, Adelaide 7.30 pm., visitors welcome.

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 financial 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.

WE HOPE YOU HAD A GOOD CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

NEXT MEETING Thursday 15 January 2026, 7.30 pm, Saphil House, 22 Gray Court, Adelaide.

Annual membership fees now due please, unless exempt, check with Richard.

Meeting 1026, SAPHIL House, 16th October 2025 commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: 26 members, 8 apologies,

A message from Martin Walker that he has an interest in Gawler historical and agricultural medals and will be at the November meeting.

The October 4-5th Coin Expo, our major event for the year, is done and dusted for the 8th time.

Saturday was busy, with a good crowd. Sunday was not so busy, but still attracted a fair number of people. The weather was very kind to us.

A big THANK YOU to all the people who helped make it work.

Your team effort has helped make this Expo succeed and become a respected annual event. Ten new members were signed up. About \$5,000 was raised for the NSSA via Parking, Raffle and Entry Fees.

Door Prizes:

Harry kindly donated two bottles of wine for door prizes and we gave away the ACR.

Door prize winners included, E.M, Michael and SK.

General Business:

10 new members welcomed to the NSSA including K.J., M.V., and C.R,

Numismatics:

Paul J. spoke about and showed coins from Ancient Syracuse including a tetradrachm from the 2nd democracy, c450 BC with Head of Arethusa surrounded by dolphins, also a Hemidrachm from Timoleon, circa 344 BC and a Hemilitra showing a dolphin from 405 BC.

In Sicily nearly 2,500 years ago the art of the die-engraver had evolved to such a degree that the individual artists began signing their work on the dies. Developments were cut short by the catastrophic political events of the closing decade of the 5th century with the Carthaginian.

After four wars against Carthage Hiero aliened Syracuse with Rome during the first Punic war after which he inaugurated a period of 50 years of peace in which Syracuse became one of the most renowned capitals of Antiquity. He issued the so-called Lex Hieronica (tax on agriculture). Under his rule there lived the most famous Syracusan, the mathematician and natural philosopher Archimedes. Among his many inventions were various military engines including the claw of Archimedes, later used to resist the Roman siege of 214–212 BC.

Archimedes studied mathematics and applied it to everyday life. He is responsible for discovering the most accurate approximation of pi in his time, for devising a method of measuring the volume of irregularly shaped objects, and for finding a way to take the measurement of a circle.



Silver Tetradrachm (23mm, 17.71 gm) SICILY, Syracuse Second Democracy 466-405 BC. Struck circa 430-420 BC Charioteer walking a Biga right, holding kentron (whip) and reins; Nike (God of Victory in flight) flying above crowning horses. Head of Arethusa (Arethusa is identified as a water nymph, associated with a specific river and is the patron figure of Syracuse) facing right, hair tied with ribbon overhead, surrounded by dolphins swimming.



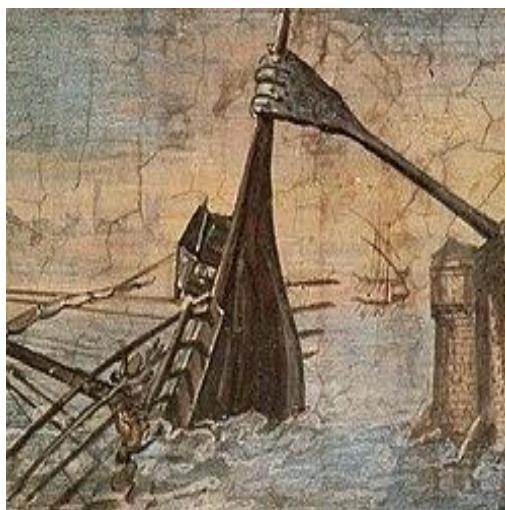
Syracuse SICILY Timoleon (was a brilliant general, a champion of Greece against Carthage, and a fighter against despotism, he is closely connected with and the Third Democracy. Hemidrachm (representing half of a drachm). (22mm, 11.59 g). Struck circa 344-339/8 BC. Laureate head of Zeus Eleutherios (Greek god who was the son of Zeus and probably an alternate name of Dionysus) facing right. Thunderbolt to right, eagle standing right.



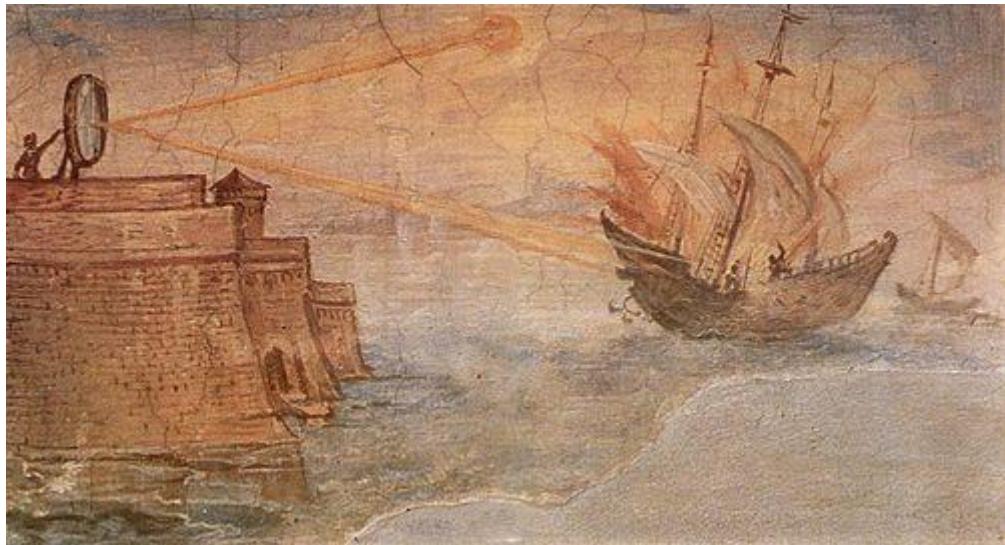
Syracuse SICILY Dionysios I 405-367 BC \textsterling Hemilitra (16mm, 2.55 g). Struck circa 405-367 BC. Female head left hair in ampyx (woman's diadem) and sphendone (A woman's cloth head band holding the diadem in place) Dolphin swimming right with a shell below.

Soldiers received one drachma a day and four drachma equalled one Tetradrachm. Archimedes apart from his mathematics invented other notable defence machines that helped defend Syracuse.

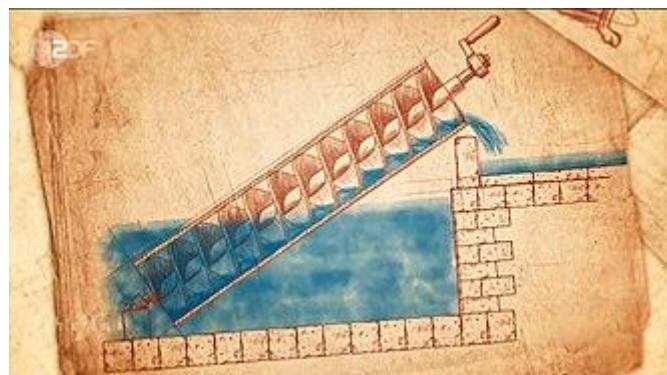
Reference. greek.mythologyworldwide.com, Wikipedia, Wikki Commons, Copilot search ancientcoinstories.com, www.merriam-webster.com



Archimedes Claw



Archimedes Death Ray



Archimedes screw

Mick showed some photos and spoke about his interest in money box collecting. Mick showed some of his collection as it was when he had the currency museum at Kadina and some of his latest purchases in this interesting field. He published a large book on moneyboxes, which is still available for \$30.



Part of the collection in his museum 1988-2008.



Part of his current collection.

An article about the oldest bank moneyboxes appeared in the December 2025 ACR.
 Articles about early and later plastic moneyboxes have also been sent to ACR for 2026.

Gerry spoke about and showed some Examples of South African Kruger money, including some trench art examples of altered Kruger coinage as made by soldiers during the Boer War. Coins showed included a sixpence, a shilling and a gold pond.

P. J. spoke about a Richard III (1482-1485 AD) period silver groat and the steps he took to identify it.

Richard spoke about and showed some silver coins of Queen Anne (1702-1714), including a Crown and Half Crown.

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.
 Christies Beach Market 121 Beach St 1st and 3rd Sundays 8am-1pm, free entry.

The meeting was closed at 8.45pm, followed by a lovely supper, thank you Helen and Sue.

Monthly Meeting 1027, SAPHIL House, 20th November 2025.

Present: 21 members, 14 apologies, 3 visitors K.R., M.W. and G.T.

Door Prizes:

Harry kindly donated two bottles of wine for door prizes and we gave away the ACR.
Door prize winners Barrie, K.R., and Harry.

General Business:

The NSSA notes with sadness the passing of **Roger McNeice**. Roger was a member of the NSSA and lived in Tasmania. Roger was awarded the OAM and wrote several books on Numismatics, including Tasmanian Currency and \$2 coloured coins.

Steph. Stephanos, who previously ran Rundle Coins, died 27 October and was buried at Dudley Park on 3 November.

Martin Walker gave a talk on Gawler medals and medallions of which he has an interest.

Subscriptions.

Next year we will be striking a medal for our 100th anniversary and awarding one to each current financial member of the NSSA.

We will contact everyone on our list regarding their subscription status.

If you have helped us with our Coin Expo, you do not have to pay subs.

Otherwise, there are quite a few people on our list who have not paid subs for a while now.

This is partly our fault. We have been busy with the Expo and get most of our income from that, so have not chased up subs over the past few years. To get the NSSA 100th anniversary medal, you need to have paid your subscription, which is only \$30 for the year.

26 (named) people are exempt from paying subs this year, either because of their help at the Expo, or because of their help with the NSSA, or because they are a life member. If Richard missed anyone (and this is quite possible), please don't be insulted) please let him know.

Numismatics:

Paul J. spoke about and showed coins from Ancient Athens, being a tetradrachm from the classic period (449-413 BC) and another tetradrachm from the period 393-294 BC. These coins feature a portrait of Athena and an Owl.



Attica, Athens 449-413BC Silver Tetradrachm (23mm, 17.04g).



ATTICA, ATHENS. 393-294 BC. Silver Tetradrachm 16.78, 21mm. Third type tetradrachm struck during the Hellenistic period, the height of Greek influence. Athena facing right wearing ivy crested helmet rev Owl standing right head facing with AOE (meaning of the Athenians) in field with an olive sprig.

Athens began to strike silver coinage with the head of Athena, the patron deity of the city on the obverse and her owl on the reverse at the end of the 6th century B.C. About the same time, the Athenians introduced a new denomination, the tetradrachm, a comparatively large coin generally used in high-value transactions. The type and denomination continued to be struck in Athens with only minor stylistic variations. Athena was the 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.

The Athenian tetradrachm was the international trade currency of choice, with hoards found all over 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 the Holy Lands. The legacy of the tetradrachm can be seen in modern coinage, where its design principles, of weight, and symbolism have influenced the development of national currencies. The use of portraits, national symbols, and inscriptions on modern coins echoes the practices established by the ancient Greeks, highlighting the tetradrachm's lasting impact on the world of money.



Relief of Athena at the Academy of Athens.



Athena Bronze Statue, Greece 5th century BC

Reference.

www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search

ian Alexander, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

[Athena - Wikipedia](#)

[Being Wise About Owls: The Athenian Owl Tetradrachm](#) (coinweek.com)

[Search media - Wikimedia Commons](#)

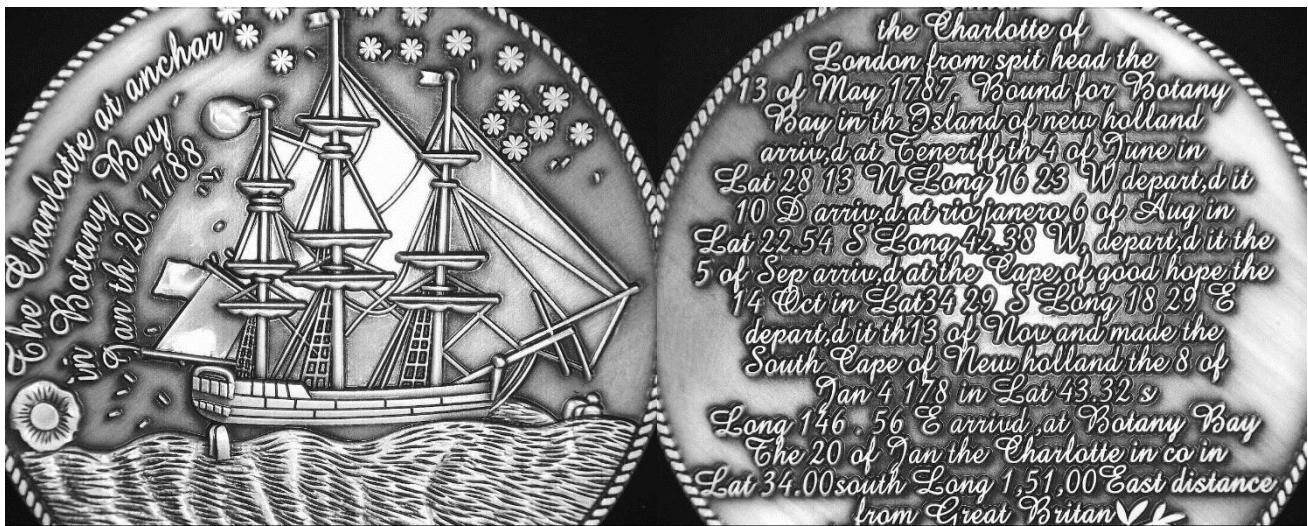
[Amun - Wikipedia](#)

[www.judithlaura.com/spirituality/athena-symbol](#)

[sirioti.com/en-au/blogs/greek-symbols-meaning/the-greek-tetradrachm-a-symbol-of-ancient-wealth-and-power](#)



Mick showed some photos and spoke about error Australian banknotes with flaps attached.



David F. spoke about and showed a copy of the famous Charlotte medal. This was made during the voyage of the first fleet to Australia in 1787-88. Silver, 74mm, by Thomas Barrett for surgeon-general John White. A unique piece, the original is our first example of European colonial art in Australia.



Richard spoke about and showed ancient Roman copper coins of Augustus and Nero.

What's On.

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 Brighton Market, 8am – noon, free entry, every 2nd and 4th Sunday.
 Christies Beach Market 121 Beach St 1st and 3rd Sundays 8am-1pm, free entry.

Meeting 1028, SAPHIL House 18th December 2025

Present: 31 members, 11 Apologies, one visitor K. R.

Door Prizes:

Harry kindly donated two bottles of wine and we gave away the ACR and some more bottles of wine donated by Richard & Su. Door prize winners G.R., Alan, Steve amongst others.

Our Christmas meeting was well attended, over 30 persons present.

A numismatic buy/sell/swap was held from 6pm until 7.30pm and then continued on for a while after the meeting.

David F. was presented with a gift as a token of appreciation from the NSSA for his involvement and patience. Another big year is almost done. Our main event, the October Coin Expo was well attended. Most of our meetings have been well attended with Show and Tell always of interest.

As a group, members of the NSSA attended the Viking exhibition and the Steam Ranger outing this year.

Big thanks to Gerry, Helen, Mick, David, Barrie, Harry, Paul J., Neil and others for your help in supporting the NSSA.

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If I missed anyone (and this is quite possible, please don't be insulted) please let me know.

Numismatics:

Paul J spoke about and showed an ancient coin from Syria, a tetradrachm of Seleukid I, who was one of the generals of Alexander the Great. Also displayed was a tetradrachm of Side showing Athena and Nike, from the 1st century BC.

Seleukid and Pamphylia



Silver Tetradrachm SELEUKID KINGS of SYRIA. Seleukos I Nikator. BC312-281. (25mm, 16.98 g). Seleukeia II mint. Struck circa 296/5-281 BC. Laureate head of Zeus facing right / Athena in biga of horned elephants right, brandishing spear and shield; monogram to right, Q in exergue.

The Seleukid Empire was one of the main successor states to the Macedonian empire forged by Alexander III 'the Great'. Following Alexander's death, his greatest generals, the Diadochs, divided the empire among themselves, but the settlement was not enduring, and nearly constant warfare resulted from their ambitions to widen their areas of control. Seleukos I, despite being passed over in the initial settlement in 323 BC, received the satrapy of Babylon in the second settlement in 320 BC. By the time of his death in 281 BC, Seleukos had expanded his realm to encompass most of Alexander's eastern possessions from Asia Minor to Baktria.

PAMPHYLIA is located in modern southern Turkey. The first empire to claim this land was the Hittite. Greek migrants then moved into the fertile plain and as a result it then changed hands a few times between Greece and Persia. In recent times the area was controlled by the Ottoman Empire then Turkey.



Silver Tetradrachm PAMPHYLIA, Side, c200BC 16.236 grams. Obverse is Athena the goddess of knowledge, purity, arts, crafts, learning, justice and wisdom. She represents intelligence, humility, consciousness, cosmic knowledge, creativity, education, enlightenment, the arts, eloquence and power. She also stands for Truth, Justice, and Moral values. Facing right wearing Corinthian helmet. Reverse, Nike (Nike is the goddess of strength, speed, and victory) Advancing to left with wreath **KLE UC** (flying Horse) across the field, to the left is a pomegranate. The pomegranate is a symbolic fruit, signifying beauty, love, marriage, fertility, birth, rebirth, hope and prosperity. Even today, young brides in certain Greek villages, throw pomegranates through the door of their new house, with such a force, that the pomegranate bursts open, scattering the seeds. This ritual is said to ensure a happy marriage and the birth of many children.

The SELEUKID Empire was at its height at the end of Alexander the Great's Empire, approximately 300BC.

References, Wiki commons, Wikipedia.

Mick spoke about three London Bank of Australia specimen banknotes for £1, £5 and £10 from the recent Noble Auction, dated Adelaide 1st. February 1910.





The Adelaide branch opened on 1 April 1910 at 87 King William Street, Adelaide, in rooms at the bottom right hand corner of the National Mutual Insurance Building, right next to the Bank of Adelaide head office, with W. G. Banfield as manager, and a branch was opened in nearby Rundle Street Adelaide in 1916.



On 2 May 1921 the bank was taken over by the E. S. & A. Bank, continuing under the name of the latter bank, which amalgamated with the A.N.Z. Bank on 1 October 1970. An article has been sent to ACR.

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NUMISMATIC ARTICLES IN
NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.
NEWSLETTERS 2012-2025



Michael P. Vort-Ronald

398

A new **400 page** A4 book **IN COLOUR** has been compiled to record all of the numismatic talks and addresses at NSSA monthly meetings from 2012 to 2025 to celebrate the centenary of the Society in 2026.

Individual talks by members have been collated together in the order they were given and then generally arranged in time-order of ancient and modern coins, medals, badges, various and banknotes to provide an attractive and interesting record of our activities for the last 14 years, with thousands of coloured images.

At least 20 copies need to be ordered to make the book viable, with an estimated retail cost of \$75 each. They will not be available at a wholesale price, to make the purchase cost per book more affordable. Postage would be \$18 for one or two copies or \$22 for 3 to 4 copies.

The book could be available by the February meeting if sufficient people convey their expression of interest to me by email ASAP please. vortronald@yp-connect.net or phone (08) 8522 4490 or mobile 0417 212 906 (no texting or leaving messages please, if no answer, try phoning again later). Email is best, please.

