



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated



Issue 158

Quarter Three 2026

July – September

Welcome to the quarterly newsletter of the Numismatic Society of South Australia Ltd.

Society Details and Meetings

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

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

Secretary, Richard W; secretary@sanumismatics.org.au

Postal address P.O. Box 312 Magill 5072.

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

Annual Membership

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

Annual membership fees now due please, unless exempt.

Newsletter

The Society's Quarterly Newsletter is edited and illustrated by Alun G. and Mark H., primarily from minutes of Society meetings recorded by the Secretary and content provided by members during numismatic presentations at the society's monthly meetings.

Contact details are

Alun mobile 0418 418 999 email ajgallie@bigpond.com

Mark mobile 409 181 428 email hoepfl.mark@gmail.com

Members presenting at meetings are encouraged to provide the Secretary and Editors with a summary of their topic and, where possible, a copy of their presentation notes by email. This helps ensure accurate reporting in Society minutes and newsletters. Members may also send additional text or images directly to Alun and Mark.

Newsletters are emailed to financial members who can receive them electronically, allowing faster delivery and full-colour copies while reducing Society costs. Members are asked to advise the Secretary of their email address. Printed black-and-white copies will still be available on request for those without internet access or who prefer hard copies.

By exchanging newsletters with clubs across Australia and New Zealand, we are also able to forward newsletters from other clubs to our financial members by email

July 2026

SAPHIL House 20-22 Gray Court, Adelaide,

16th July 2026 commenced at 7.30pm.

Attendance 22 Apologies 5 Visitors 2

Door Prizes:

THE ACR magazine was donated as a door prize as well as several items from At the Toss Of A Coin, with thanks to Gerry.

Closing of the Purple Penny

Fellow NSSA fellow members Mark and Kathryn are closing the Purple Penny coin shop at Mawson lakes. It is sad to see them go, they worked very hard establishing and building the business and it was a credit to them.

They will still have an interest in the hobby and hopefully we will see more of them at the meetings. They have greatly helped the NSSA in their quiet, unassuming way behind the scenes for many years now and that is appreciated and will not be forgotten

The society wishes them all the best in their future.

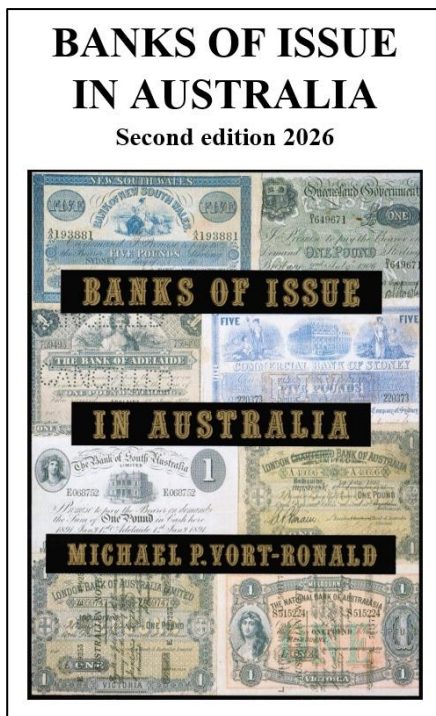
NSSA Expo– 3rd and 4th October 2026 at Torrens Parade Ground.

All dealer tables for this Expo have been booked. If anyone can volunteer to help with set up, take down and car park marshals and staffing the NSSA desk this would be greatly appreciated. Your subscription will be paid for and food/drink provided. Please contact the secretary if you can assist.

Numismatics

Banks of Issue in Australia

Mick.V-R



Mick introduced members to his latest numismatic book, which is a full colour second edition of Banks of Issue in Australia.

The book covers Australia's paper money and circulating currency from the period before Federation back to the earliest days of settlement, filling a major gap for pre-1900s private bank notes.

It details notes issued by private banks, state governments, and special overprinted or superscribed government issues.

This latest edition includes 44 years of new data, newspaper reports, and images. Copies of the book are available by contacting Mick.



Figures 12 and 13, 1893 £20 altered to "Limited", Dixon Library State Library of N.S.W



Figures 14, Imprint "Engraved by W. & A.K. Johnston, Edinburgh, for Cowen & Co. Sydney"
Figure 15, trial £1 no imprint, image, Spink London.



Figure 16, trial £1 no imprint, Noble Num. Figure 17, trial £1 as per Fig. 16, The Right Note.



Figures 19 and 20, authors former notes, £1 forgery, and £5 New England board purchased from Ross Pratley for \$425 and auctioned by Spink in 1988 for \$800.



Figure 21, trial £5, Legendary Numismatics. Figure 22, £10, image, Noble Numismatics.



Figure 23, issued £10, Legendary Numismatics. Figure 24, specimen £20, image, I.A.G.



Alexander the Great

Paul J.

Paul this month took a break from his series on the Five Good Emperors to share with us some coins and history of Alexander III.

The conquest by Philip II of Pangaeum, and then of the island of Thasos between 356 and 342 BC brought gold and silver mines under Macedonian control. As a direct result of this Philip II and his son Alexander III gained the wealth to pursue the conquest of Greece this led to a larger number of gold and silver coins being produced.

After the Battle of Issus in 333 BC Alexander minted gold staters, silver tetradrachms and drachms, and various fractional bronze coins these became the coinage of the Macedonian Empire. These types of coins remained constant throughout his empire, even though some Persian coins still circulated.

A Gold Stater coins was about the equivalent to about 20 days pay for a Macedonian soldier during wartime.

The wages of soldiers in Alexander the Great's army varied based on rank. Keep in mind that a silver tetradrachm was worth about four silver drachms.

- At the beginning of an expedition, the average salary of a common soldier was 1-2 drachmas per day.
- Corporals received 40 drachmas per month, while platoon leaders earned double that amount.
- Horsemen received 300 drachmas per month, and Macedonian phalangites (a soldier in the heart of the Macedonian phalanx) earned 100 drachmas.

A silver tetradrachm represented 12 days of welfare payment for a poor Athenian man unable to work or 24 days of pay for a citizen serving on a jury. This coin might have bought something like 54 litres of wheat (around 54 days' rations for a soldier) or 12 litres of olive oil or 37 litres of local wine.



The Gordian Knot is an Ancient Greek legend associated with Alexander the Great located in the city of Gordium, it was a complex knot that tied up a chariot. The legend went that whoever could untie it would be destined to rule all of Asia. Instead of untangling it laboriously as everyone expected, Alexander dramatically cut through it with his sword. To this day some people use it as a reference when dealing with Bureaucracy.

After conquering the Greek city states, Alexander launched a campaign against the Persians. Alexander began his war by crossing the Hellespont (modern Dardanelles) with an army of 35,000 Macedonian and Greek troops; his chief officers were all Macedonians.

Near the ancient city of Troy, Alexander attacked an army of Persians and Greek mercenaries totalling 40,000 men. His forces defeated the enemy, after this battle all the states of Asia Minor submitted to him. Finally,

Alexander faced King Darius III at the Battle of Issus in 333BC which ended in a great victory for Alexander. Darius fled northward, abandoning his mother, wife, and children to Alexander, who treated them with the respect due to royalty. The next cities to fall were Tyre and Gaza he then marched on Egypt. Alexander founded the city of Alexandria at the mouth of the Nile River later becoming the literary, scientific, and commercial centre of the Greek world. To complete his conquest of the Persian Empire. Alexander crossed Persia all the way to the Indus River, in all Alexander fought in 21 Battles. In June of 323BC Alexander contracted a fever and died. He left his empire, in his own words, “to the strongest”; this ambiguous testament resulted in much conflict for over half a century.



Kingdom of, Alexander III, (336-323 B.C.) Gold stater, (18mm, 8.56 g), Carrhae Mint, issued c.305-300 B.C., obverse. head of Athena (Athena, daughter of Zeus the Greek goddess of wisdom, strategic warfare, and crafts, and the patron deity of Athens) facing right in a crested Corinthian helmet. Reverse. Winged Nike (Nike was the goddess of speed, strength and victory) standing to left, holding wreath and stylus, to left AP monogram in circle, crescent and DI below, to right ALEXANDROU.



Alexander III, Kingdom of, Macedon, (336-323 B.C.), silver tetradrachm, (17.06 g), Kassander as regent, uncertain mint in Greece or Macedon, issued c.325-310 B.C. Obverse, head of Herakles (son of Zeus also known as Hercules) to right wearing lion skin with dotted border, reverse. Zeus seated on throne to left, eagle in outstretched hand, grape bunch to left (eagle represents Zeus and the grapes represent Alexander’s victory over Persia) A below throne, to right ALEXANDROU,



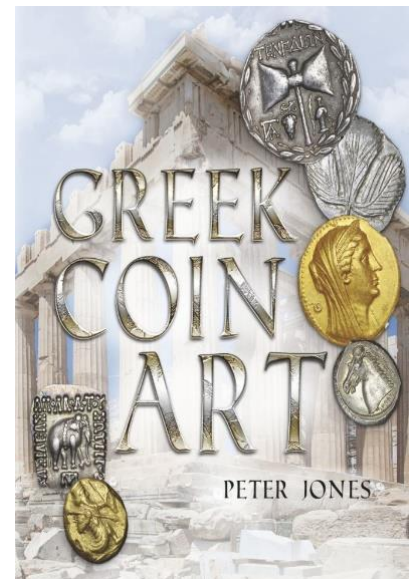
Alexander III, Kingdom of Macedon, (336-323BC) Silver Drachm, (18mm, 4.21g). Kolophon Mint, struck by either Menander or Kleitos in the period 323-319 BC, with the titles of Alexander. Head of Herakles right, wearing lion

skin headdress/ Zeus Aetophoros (meaning eagle bearing Zeus) seated left, holding an eagle and sceptre. Posthumous issue.

Greek Coin Art

Michael H.

Michael spoke about and showed members a lovely book called Greek Coin Art, showing some of the wonderful and artistic coin designs of the Ancient Greeks. This profusely illustrated, hardcover book shows over 150 full-page pictures of art on ancient Greek coins. A journey takes you through the beginnings of coinage, around 650 BCE, to the end of the ancient Greek period when Octavian defeated Marc Antony and Cleopatra in 31 BCE. The journey starts in West Europe, moving to Southern Italy and Sicily, then moves to Greece, the Islands, then modern-day Turkey and the Levant. After Alexander the Great conquered territories from Greece to India, his followers established yet more ancient Greek empires issuing coins. The tour finishes in North Africa.



Renmark Club Tokens

Peter F.

Peter shared with members several tokens, or check pieces, issued by The Renmark Club during the 1920s and 1930s for use within the Gentleman's club. The club was established in 1909 and remained an exclusive men's club until the 1960s. These tokens served as a convenient substitute for cash, they could be exchanged for drinks, meals or other club purchases. The tokens were produced in denominations of threepence (3d), sixpence (6d), one shilling (1s), two shillings (2s) and two shillings and sixpence (2/6d), providing an interesting example of localised currency used in South Australia during the interwar period.



1965 Churchill Crown

Gerard M.

Spoke about and showed a Churchill Crown from 1965. The copper-nickel commemorative coin was issued by The Royal Mint to honour the late statesman following his death. The Royal Mint described the Churchill Crown as “one of the most difficult ever produced.” Each cupro-nickel crown had to be struck by two extremely heavy presses, one of 250 tons and the other 360 tons. The Royal Mint had to remove some details such as the engraver, Oscar Nemon’s, small initials to the left of the head. The relief was flatter than the sculptor had intended and Nemon was not at all happy with the result.



2025 Hellas Gold Sovereign

Mark H.



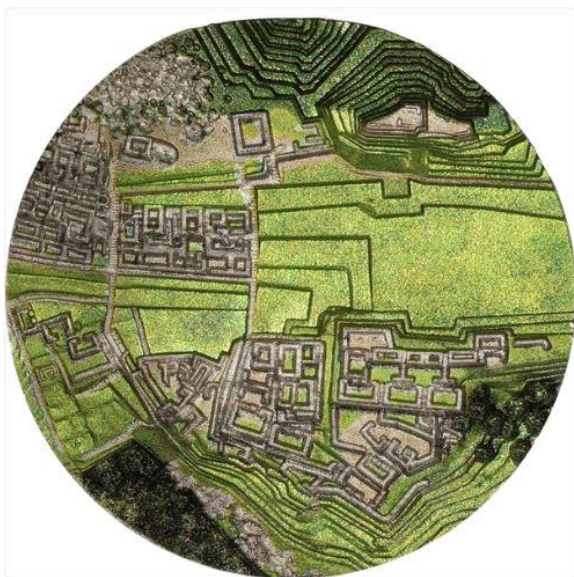
Mark spoke about and showed a 2025 gold sovereign featuring a discreet ‘EA’ privy mark. Struck in 22-carat gold, the coin bears the effigy of His Majesty King Charles III alongside the timeless image of St George slaying the dragon.

The EA (for Ελλάδα, “Hellas”) marks the first time a Sovereign has been produced with a symbol dedicated to Greece. With a limited mintage of 15,000 pieces, this launch celebrated a 15-year collaboration between Piraeus Bank and The Royal Mint of the United Kingdom.

Machu Picchu 3D Relief Coins

Ben R

Ben spoke about and showed a Three-Dimensional 5 oz featuring scenes of Machu Picchu. The coin is issued by the Cook Islands with a face value of 25 Dollars, this release is limited to only 555 coins worldwide.



Assorted United Kingdom Medals

David F.:

David spoke about and showed some medals from his recent UK trip including Isle of Wight Osborne House 34mm, 15 grams medal and Carisbrook Castle Medal.



Adelaide Numismatic Community 1968

Paul S.

Paul S spoke about and showed a photo from March 1968 of the Miscellaneous Workers Union building. Paul also spoke about the original Adelaide Festival of Arts Coin Show and showed a photo of some of the personalities from the period, including Ian Woody, Cecil Poole, Connie Asby, Ron Harms & Laurie Nugent.



August 2026

SAPHIL House 20-22 Gray Court, Adelaide,

20th August 2026 commenced at 7.30pm.

Attendance 26 Apologies 7

Door Prizes:

Hardeep generously donated two bottles of wine, and we gave away the ACR magazine.

NSSA Expo– 3rd and 4th October 2026 at Torrens Parade Ground.

All dealer tables for this Expo have been booked. Still seeking anyone can volunteer to help with set up, take down and car park marshals and staffing the NSSA desk this would be greatly appreciated. Your subscription will be paid for and food/drink provided. Please contact the secretary if you can assist. The Mint made enquiries regarding attendance however it was after all table had been booked and was considered too late to accommodate this year given the extra work required.

From the Phoenix to the Drachma and the Euro: The History of Money in Modern Greece

The Greek Museum of Adelaide invited member to an exhibition entitled From the Phoenix to the Drachman and the Euro: History of Modern Greek Currency Exhibition.

An exhibition of exceptional cultural significance, illuminating Greece's financial and social journey across nearly two centuries.

The evolution of Greek currency, from the rebirth of the Phoenix in 1830 to the modern Euro, through exquisite displays of original and replica banknotes, coins, archival collections, and rare memorabilia.

At the heart of this exhibition lies the history of World War II's compulsory occupation loans, a profound financial injustice imposed by German and Italian forces.

Complementing this narrative is the historical backdrop of the Asia Minor refugee crisis, offering essential insight into the human resilience that shaped Greece's modern identity.

It is on Saturday 12th September 3pm-5pm, Cowandilla Community Room, 173 Sir Donald Bradman Drive Cowandilla, free entry

Numismatics

Adelaide Pound Replica

Mark H.

Mark spoke about and showed a 1852 Adelaide Pound Replica

It was released in 2002 by Downie's & Sherwood to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Australia's first legal tender gold coin. It was a Limited edition of 250 struck by Great Britain's London mint.



Proof, 0.999 silver, plated in pure gold

Diameter 89 mm - Weight 190 grams - Thickness 4mm

Mark also spoke about and showed some photos from the recent Treasury Building tour that he had organised for members. The event was well attended with a full group.

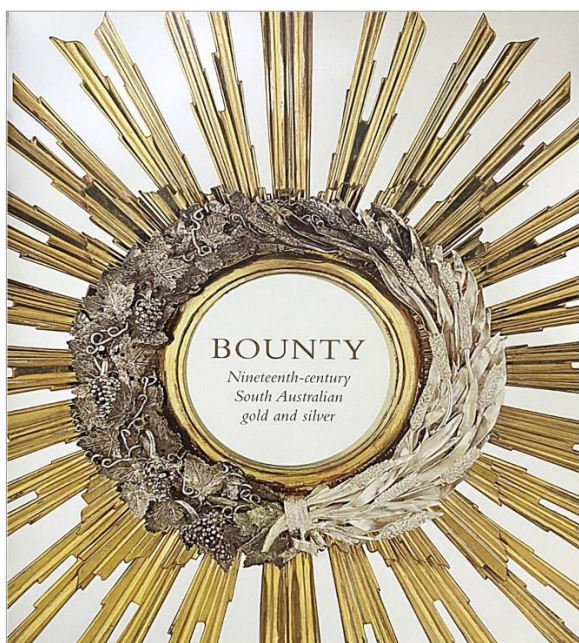


Follow Up to Treasury Tour – George Goyder

Peter L.

Spoke about George Goyder and some artwork relating to Goyder that had been donated to the State Library and which appeared on the cover of the Australiana magazine. Peter also spoke about the Gold Escort and the Gold Ingots and Adelaide Pound produced in SA in the 1850s.





Five Good Emperors – Antonius Pius

Paul J.

Paul continued his presentations on the Five Good Emperors, with this month's presentation focussed on Antonius Pius. Antoninus was assigned by the emperor Hadrian to assist with the judicial administration of Italy. He governed the province of Asia and then became an adviser to the emperor. In 138 Antoninus was adopted by Hadrian who designated him as his successor. Hadrian specified that two men—the future emperors Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus—were to succeed Antoninus. Upon acceding to power, Antoninus persuaded a reluctant Senate to offer the customary divine honours to Hadrian. For his duty to Rome, he was given the surname Pius by the Senate. When his wife, Faustina, died in late in 141 he founded in her memory the Puellae Faustinae, a charitable institution for the daughters of the poor.

References to Antoninus in 2nd-century literature are exceptionally rare because very few striking events occurred during his 23-year reign. A rebellion in Roman Britain was suppressed, and a 58-kilometre garrisoned barrier—called the Antonine Wall was built to extend the Roman frontier some 100 miles north of Hadrian's Wall. Antoninus' armies contained revolts in Mauretania, Germany, Dacia, and Egypt



Antoninus Pius. AD 138-161. Silver Denarius. (18mm, 3.31g). Rome mint. Issued 152-3, obverse, ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P XVII, (Antoninus Augustus Father of the Fatherland, Tribunician Power, Consul for the third time laureate) head to right. Reverse: COS IIII (meaning that the coin was issued by a consul for the fourth time), Vesta (goddess of home and family), veiled and draped, standing left, holding simpulum (a ladle) in right hand and palladium (part of a statue of Athena from Troy meant to protect Rome) at shoulder in left



Rome – Antonius Pius, 148 – 149AD, Silver Denarius. The reverse depicts Fortuna, the Roman goddess of fortune, chance, and prosperity often shown holding a cornucopia and rudder, symbolizing abundance and destiny.



Rome – 138 – 161AD, Antonius Pius, struck under Marcus Aurelius. Bareheaded bust right, slight drapery. Column surmounted by statue of Pius holding eagle and sceptre. RIC III 1270 (Aurelius) var. (without slight drapery)

A Pair of Medals

Paul S.

Paul spoke about and showed a Resin medal by Pinches of London, 1887 Golden Jubilee of Victoria. Made from Gutta Purcha/Vulcanite. Made for the India Rubber and Telegraph Works Co. Produced in 4 different colours.



Paul also showed an Edward VII medal, Coronation Fete, Kobe Japan.



Queensland Stamp and Coin Show Medal

David F.

David spoke about and showed a medal from The Queensland Stamp and Coin show that he recently attended. The Exhibitor's medal is 58 grams and 50mm in diameter.



Kennedy Half Dollar Repoussé

Mark N.

Mark introduced members to an interesting piece of US coin art he recently acquired. A normal 1965 Kennedy half dollar was altered after leaving the Mint using repoussé work—metal was carefully pushed or hammered from behind to raise Kennedy's portrait into pronounced three-dimensional relief. These are consequently also called "pop-out" Kennedy halves. repoussé work was conducted by Alvin Hutson in 1966.



Early Fifty Pound advertising note.

Mick VR.

Spoke about his latest banknote book, 356 pages in colour Also showed an early 50 pound advertising note.



Bavarian Silver Thaler

Piero J.

Spoke about and showed a silver thaler, Nurenburg Bavaria, 10 Marks. A very beautifully and finely engraved piece, right down to the roof tiles. This was a week's payment for a worker at time of issue.

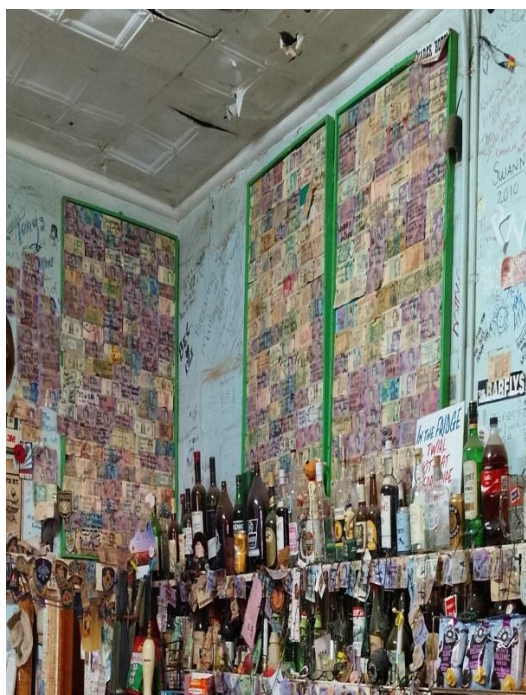
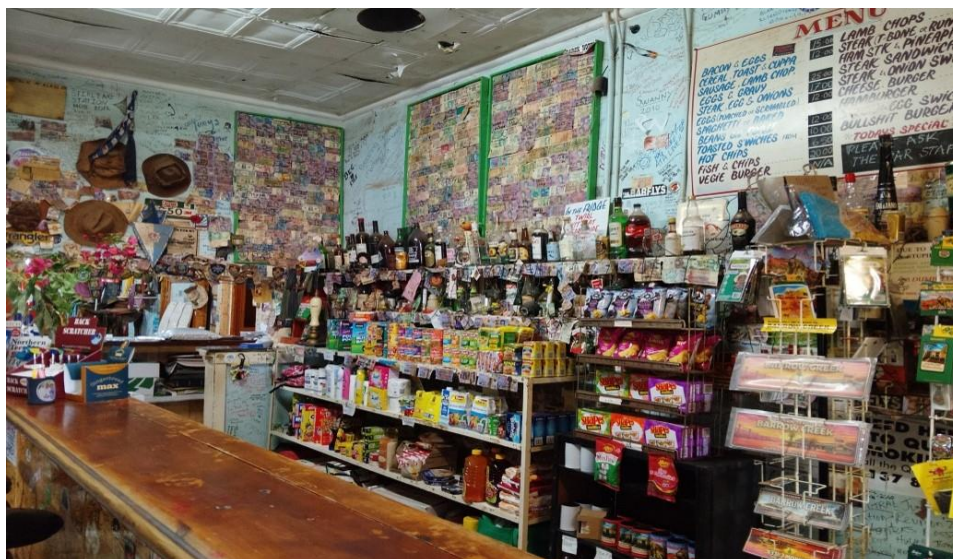


Road Trip

Joe P.

Joe gave members an overview of his recent road trip he had taken on motorbike. The groups covered 5 states in 12 days and over 6000 kms.

An interesting numismatic connection was a wall of banknotes in the Barrow Creek Fuel stop, many with messages from travellers over the years.



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Set up for dealers from 3.30pm on Friday and 8am on Saturday 3rd.

Open to the public 10am-5pm Saturday and 10am-4pm Sunday.

NAA Report.

The next issue of the NAA Journal is currently in the printing stage.

Numismatics

One of the Oldest Coins

Mark H.

Mark spoke about and showed about one of the world's oldest coins - around 2,500 years old.

Electrum Hemihekte (an ancient fractional coin worth 1/12 of a stater, made of electrum (a natural alloy of gold and silver)). From the times of Kings of Lydia. Time of Alyattes to Kroisos.



Head of roaring lion right, sunburst with ray on forehead / incuse square.

Multiple countermarks on obverse and edge. Triskeles at eye obverse (a triskeles, is an ancient motif consisting either of a triple spiral exhibiting rotational symmetry or of other patterns in triplicate that emanate from a common centre).

Sardes mint. Circa 650 - 546 BC.

Head of roaring lion right, sunburst with ray on forehead / incuse square.

8 mm. 1.15 g. Rosen 654

WWI Penny ID

Mark N.

Mark spoke about and showed a penny was found when sorting the last of the unsorted pennies and half pennies from The Purple Penny. It is an Australian 1911 penny. In the early period of WWI soldiers were only issued a single ID tag so may had their own second tag inscribed and often coins were used as the basis for these tags. The obverse of this Penny has been stamped with letter/number punches and says:

GN MACKIE

1948

27.A.I

A.I.F



G N Mackie

George Norman Mackie from Prospect, enlisted in Adelaide in May 1915. He served in the 27th Australian Infantry Battalion and 7th Australian Infantry Brigade headquarters. Served in Mudros (Dardanelles), Egypt, Belgium, and France. Was promoted from private, to corporal, to sergeant, sergeant-major and then to warrant officer. He was mentioned in dispatches in late 1917 and in 1919 and awarded the meritorious service medal in early 1918. He returned to Australia in 1919. His house was burned in 1955, and he lost all his medals (1914-15-star, British War Medal, plus Victory Medal with oak leaves, MSM). Mackie passed in 1967 and is buried in NSW.

Italy Star

Richard W.

Richard spoke about and showed a WWI Italy star campaign medal and spoke about the fighting in Italy during WWI, particularly the Anzio campaign. Richard read a poignant tribute, citing the lyrics of the song “When The Tigers Broke Free”, written by Roger Waters of Pink Floyd and which describe the tragic death of Waters' father, Eric Fletcher Waters, who was killed at age 31 on February 18, 1944, while serving with C Company of the Royal Fusiliers during Battle of Anzio. WWII campaign medals were not named so it is not possible to determine the owner of this Italy star and therefore if they fought at Anzio.



Italy Star

***It was just before dawn one miserable morning in black Forty-Four
When the forward commander was told to sit tight, when he asked that his men be withdrawn
And the Generals gave thanks as the other ranks held back the enemy tanks for a while
And the Anzio bridgehead was held for the price of a few hundred ordinary lives***

***And kind old King George sent Mother a note when he heard that Father was gone
It was, I recall, in the form of a scroll with gold leaf and all
And I found it one day in a drawer of old photographs hidden away
And my eyes still grow damp to remember his Majesty signed with his own rubber stamp***

***It was dark all around, there was frost in the ground when the Tigers broke free
And no one survived from the Royal Fusiliers Company C
They were all left behind, most of them dead, the rest of them dying
And that's how the High Command took my daddy from me***

Royal Souvenir Medals

Paul S.

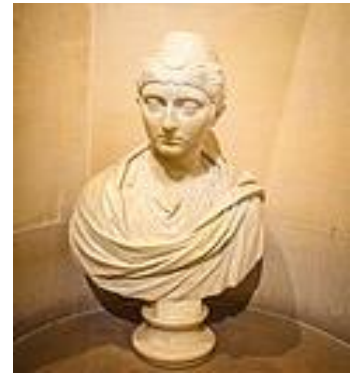
Paul spoke about and showed an Edward VII Church Hall, Union Grove Coronation Dinner Souvenir. Also, a silver Garden Party souvenir piece by Henry Clarke for the Coronation of George V and Mary in 1911.

Apologies no photos available

A Good Emperors Better Half – Faustina

Paul J.

Faustina was married to Antoninus Pius and when he became the Emperor Faustina consequently became the Roman Empress. Faustina was well respected and was renowned for her beauty and wisdom. Throughout her life, Faustina was involved in assisting charities for the poor and sponsoring the education of Roman children, particularly girls. It has been well documented that Antoninus Pius was devoted to her.



Bust of Faustina in the louvre



Roman Forum Temple of Antoninus and Faustina

Antoninus was devastated at Faustina's death, and he took several steps to honour her memory. He had the Senate deify her and dedicate the Temple of Faustina to her in the Roman Forum. Because of this, Faustina was the first Roman empress with a permanent presence in the Forum Romanum. The Senate authorized gold and silver statues of her, including an image that appeared in the circus. Antoninus also ordered various coins with her portrait be struck, inscribed DIVA FAVSTINA ("Divine Faustina") and these were elaborately decorated. He also established a charity called *Puellae Faustinae* ("Girls of Faustina") to assist orphaned Roman girls and he created a new grain supply to the city of Rome. Her remains were interred in the Mausoleum of Hadrian. Certain cities struck coin issues in honour of the "divine Faustina" amongst

them were Delphi, Alexandria, Bostra, and Nicopolis. These coins show the deities Pietas and Aeternitas, among others; and an eagle, with the legend CONSECRATIO (i.e. Faustina's ascension into heaven). Coins of Faustina were often incorporated into jewellery and worn as amulets.

Faustina continued to be commemorated all the way up to the Renaissance where she was depicted as the "model wife".



Rome – Faustina 1 – 141 – 161AD, Silver Denarius. Head of Faustina facing right and on the reverse the deity of Concordia (embodies the principles of harmony and agreement) standing facing, head left,



Rome – Faustina- c141AD, Silver Denarius, Obverse: DIVA FAVSTINA draped bust right, hair elaborately waved and coiled, with bands across the head, drawn up at the back and piled in a round coil on top Reverse: CONSECRATIO peacock walking right, head turned back.

How Rare is a Pair of \$20 Star notes

Mick V-R

In 1972 I cashed my police pay cheque at the R.B.A. in Adelaide., with the ever-friendly Ted Buckley who often supplied me with boxes of mint rolls and uncirculated banknotes. He had 10 packs of brand-new Phillips/Randall \$20 notes (1,000 notes).

At that time star notes were confined to notes from \$1 to \$10 with no mention of the star note system extending to the \$20 notes. I asked Ted to fan through a pack of \$20 notes, and we found a \$20 star note. We fanned through a second pack of notes and found another. They were consecutively numbered ZXA 01566 and 01567, and cost me their face value of \$40.

I had used my wife's housekeeping money to buy the two notes and could not afford to keep both of them, so on my way home to Swan Reach I called in to see a collecting friend at Nuriootpa, which forms a triangle with Angaston and Tanunda, and sold him one of the star notes for \$20. Later, when I decided to collect pairs of all different star notes I swapped a single \$20 star with the friend and my pair was united.

The issue of star notes ceased in the Commonwealth of Australia series in 1972.



I auctioned my whole collection in 1988, and the pair sold for \$3,100. The pair was sold again in 1996 by Nobles for \$20,200, and again in September this year by IAG for \$15,500 hammer price or a total of \$18,110.

How rare is a pair? Only 9 pairs are known, five as individual pairs and eight consecutive notes sold as four pairs in 1984 for \$2,400 to \$2,800 per pair.

The highest price asked for a pair was by John Pettit in 2002 for \$38,500, followed in 2007 for the same pair by Stanley Gibbons for \$37,000.

For the full story see the upcoming October and November issues of ACR.

Marchinbar Island Archaeological Expedition 2013

Peter L.



Peter inspecting coins at Powerhouse Museum

Peter gave an interesting presentation on an archaeological expedition he participated in as the Numismatist in July 2013. The expedition travelled to remote Marchinbar Island in the Wessel Islands, off eastern Arnhem Land, to investigate one of Australia's most intriguing historical mysteries. During the Second World War, RAAF serviceman Morrie Isenberg had found nine coins on the island: five medieval coins from the Kilwa Sultanate in East Africa and four Dutch coins. The coins, later donated to Sydney's Powerhouse Museum, raised fascinating questions about early overseas contact with northern Australia and how African coins minted centuries before European settlement came to be found there.

After examining the original coins and Isenberg's hand-drawn map, the expedition team travelled by boat from Nhulunbuy to Marchinbar Island. Working in an isolated landscape inhabited by crocodiles, biting ants and other hazards, the team used metal detectors to search beaches, rocky areas and the island's interior. Although no further medieval coins were discovered, the expedition located several historically significant objects and sites, including rock paintings depicting a ship and Europeans wearing hats.

The expedition and the continuing investigation are documented in the forthcoming book *Territory Treasures*, written by the group. The book will be launched in Darwin on 16 October 2026 and will retail for \$35, plus postage where applicable. Copies ordered through Peter Lane around the launch will be signed by all five authors.

