

# AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST



## 2001

Publication of the  
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA  
(Incorporating the Numismatic Society of Victoria, founded 1914,  
and the Association of Australian Numismatists (Melb.), 1939)

# NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

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# VALE - GORDON ANDREWS (1915 - 2001)

by Alan Flint <sup>1</sup>

On 14<sup>th</sup> February 1966, an exciting era began for Australian banknotes. It was the day on which the new Decimal Series was launched.

It is well documented that Sydney based designer Gordon Andrews was entrusted in developing original concepts alongside (the now) Note Printing Australia Ltd (NPA) printing technicians - converting his interpretations into banknotes.

The notes issued initially were the \$1, \$2, \$10, and \$20 denominations. Utilising the latest in security printing technology, Andrews produced colourful contemporary designs. The task was to create notes that graphically captured the character of Australia and which could be identified as distinctly Australian, amongst any currencies in the world at that time.

The greens of the grasses, the golds of the sands, the blues of the skies, the reds and purples of the landscapes and mountains provided the inspiration behind Andrew's desire to bring to fruition designs against a background of rich colour representing elements in the bright Australian sunlight.

It is recalled that when designing the \$5 note (issued in 1967), the NPA ink technicians and printers had great difficulty satisfying Andrew's colour requirements for this note, as it involved a wide range of purples and mauves. One day, out of sheer frustration, Andrews produced a bunch of violets and roses at a production meeting and said to the technicians: "*There, match these!*" they did.

Interestingly, Gordon included his own name on the back of the masthead on a shopfront on the Sydney waterfront (back of the \$5 note). It read "G. Andrews, Plumber". There was no plumber by the name of Andrews in the Colony at that time - Andrews cheerfully had his own name firmly recorded for posterity!

Later, Gordon Andrews was again the designer when the \$50 note was added into the series (in 1973). He was given the challenge of producing another concept that would in turn fit into the existing family of notes. The

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<sup>1</sup> Former NPA Museum Manager

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST 2001

brief was for a "gold" note with the theme of "science". Andrews had the ability to achieve visually stimulating compositions that expressed a chosen "story".



*Portion of back of \$5 note showing building with name "G ANDREWS PLUMBER"*

Before final colouration of the \$50 note was achieved, numerous combinations were tried before Andrews was satisfied with the result. Use of the gold colour meant that it was necessary for a departure from the central yellow band area prominent in all the other notes. Finally a blue/green band was produced thus creating a cool contrast against the warm gold combination of which Andrews strove so hard for.

On the job, Gordon Andrews was a real character. He amused many of the NPA printing staff with his pranks and mirthful approaches - all the time gaining their confidence and trust. When corresponding officially with his Sydney studio, Gordon often signed his name with the broadest of pens - sometimes using "G.A." or only his Christian name (up to  $\frac{1}{8}$ <sup>th</sup> inch) as if painted with a brush - and of course, in a brightly chosen colour, HIS trademark.

Gordon Andrews died 17 January 2001.

# CENTENARY OF FEDERATION COMMEMORATIVES

by Frank Robinson, NAV 713

This paper will be dealing with the coins and note issued as commemoratives for Australia's Centenary of Federation in 2001.

## SCHOOL CHILDREN'S COMPETITION

On 11 August 2000, the Royal Australian Mint announced a design competition for primary and secondary school students to design a series of 20 cent commemorative coins, one for each of Australia's six States and three self-governing Territories. Entries were to be judged on their artistic merit, commemorative appropriateness and suitability for minting. The designs were to answer the question "*What is special about your State / Territory?*". Prize money would be \$5000 for the winning entry from each State and Territory with up to two runner up prizes of \$1000 each could also be awarded. All prizes awarded would go to the schools that the students attended.

The competition was to close at 5pm on 27 October 2000. The winners were to be announced according to following schedule:

New South Wales	10 Jan 2001	Australian Capital Territory	1 Feb 2001
Queensland	15 Feb 2001	Victoria	28 Feb 2001
Norfolk Island	3 Mar 2001	Northern Territory	15 Mar 2001
South Australia	22 Mar 2001	Western Australia	29 Mar 2001
Tasmania	31 Mar 2001		

A design brief was available from the Royal Australian Mint. It was intended that the coins would be issued as circulating coinage throughout 2001 with collector coins to later be made available in both proof and uncirculated versions<sup>1</sup>. However, by the time the first design was unveiled, this order had been reversed<sup>2</sup>. The collector coins (both proof and uncirculated) were released on the day the designs were revealed and the coins did not start circulating until late in the year.

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<sup>1</sup> Royal Australian Mint Press Release dated 11 August 2000

<sup>2</sup> Royal Australian Mint Press Release dated 1 February 2001

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Approximately 3500 designs were received from students of approximately 1200 schools. The winning designs were from students from all years ranging from Year 5 to Year 12. I believe that this competition was highly successful and will help promote numismatic design and collecting interest in the younger members of our society.

Although separate from this competition, there was also a 50 cent coin for each State and self-governing Territory depicting their official coat of arms.

### NATIONAL

A one dollar coin with the Centenary of Federation logo and a 50 cent coin with the Commonwealth Coat of Arms were released in Sydney on 1 February 2001. The 50 cent coin was designed by Vladimir Gottwald and the one dollar coin was designed by Wojciech Pietranik. The common obverse of all the Federation coins was designed by Ian Rank-Broadley.



*Common obverse for all the 2001 coins and reverses of the National designs for the one dollar and 50 cent coins*

### NEW SOUTH WALES

The winner of the first of the student designed coins was announced on 10 January 2001. The winning design was by Joseph Neve<sup>3</sup>, a 16 year old Year 10 student at Bellingen High School in northern New South Wales. Runnerup prizes were also announced for the designs by Amarinder Kaur of Macarthur Girls High School in Parramatta and Kylie Fernance of Henry Kendall High School in Gosford.

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<sup>3</sup> Ages and class years of all students refer to the date of the close of entries (ie 27.10.2000)

## ***CENTENARY OF FEDERATION COMMEMORATIVES***



*Joseph Neve; Centenary of Federation 20 and 50 cent coins for New South Wales*

Joseph's hand-drawn design featured the waratah (the NSW floral emblem) against a silhouetted map of New South Wales. Approximately 1200 entries were received from students in nearly 400 schools.

John Harradine, Head Teacher for Industrial Arts at Bellingen High School set the coin design as a class assignment for his Year 9 and 10 Technical Drawing students. Every student in these classes was required to submit a coin design for assessment; the three best designs were forwarded to the Mint for the competition.

Both Joseph's 20 cent coin and the New South Wales 50 cent coin were unveiled on Thursday 1 February 2001 in Sydney.

## **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

On 1 February 2001, the winner of the Australian Capital Territory section of the student competition was announced. Stacy Jo-Ann Paine, a 13 year old Grade 7 student at Caroline Chisholm High School in Canberra was the winner and the runners-up were Eliza Zekalo of Calwell High School in Tuggeranong and Aidan Elizabeth Muirhead of Miles Franklin Primary School in Belconnen. A total of 34 schools submitted at least three designs each.



*Stacy Paine; Centenary of Federation 20 and 50 cent coins for Australian Capital Territory*

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Stacy's design was unveiled at the Royal Australian Mint on Tuesday 13 March 2001. During the official launch, Stacy struck her own coin. Her computer generated design features the flagpole of the Australian Parliament House with an outline map of the ACT to the left, the ACT floral emblem (Royal Bluebell) to the right and the seven-pointed Federation star below.

Stacy's father read about the competition in a newspaper and they both thought it would be a great idea for her to enter as she hopes to work in a design related creative field. Stacy chose the symbols that she considered the best and would fit the circular coin design. After drawing some sketches, she chose the one which she considered looked the best and showed ACT places and icons that resulted from Federation.

## QUEENSLAND

The winner of the Queensland section was announced on 15 February 2001 – this being Jenifer Gray who was a year 12 student at Ingham State High School in North Queensland. Hannes Christian Roesti of Palm Beach – Currumbin State High School and Rachael Jane Bartram of Guardian Angels School were the runners-up. Over 170 Queensland schools submitted more than 500 entries.



*Jenifer Gray; Centenary of Federation 20 and 50 cent coins for Queensland*

The coin with Jenifer's design was launched on Friday 23 March 2001 in Brisbane. It depicts the progress of the State, with a clock-face in the background, and its beginnings represented by a gecko. The transformation of society over time is symbolised by footsteps changing to shoeprints as it journeys towards an age of technology represented by a computer chipboard.

## *CENTENARY OF FEDERATION COMMEMORATIVES*

### **VICTORIA**

On 28 February 2001, the winners of the Victorian section were announced. For the first time, there were two co-winners – Ryan Douglas Ladd and Mark Aaron Kennedy, both 11 year old students in year 5 at Lara Lake Primary School (near Geelong). Megan Gerber of Chaffey Secondary College in Mildura and Mia Hayes of Wedderburn College were the runners-up. Approximately 270 schools submitted over 800 designs.

The launch of this coin was held at Lara Lake Primary School on Thursday 3 May 2001. In my capacity as President of the Numismatic Association of Victoria, I attended this function. Mark and Ryan had prepared a drawing and their teacher suggested that they could do better and that night the two of them prepared a new drawing which was then submitted for, and won, the competition.



*Mark Kennedy and Ryan Ladd*



*Centenary of Federation 20 and 50 cent coins for Victoria*

Mark and Ryan's hand-drawn design features the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne, which was the venue for the opening of the first Federal Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia on 9 May 1901, surrounded by the Common (Pink) Heath which is Victoria's floral emblem.

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Both Mark and Ryan have a strong interest in art and in addition to their schoolwork, they have participated in other art class programs.

I was interested by Megan Gerber's design as it featured Alfred Deakin. Not only was Deakin Victoria's champion for federation and a member of the first Federal parliament (and later the second Prime Minister), but he was also responsible for bringing the Chaffey brothers to Victoria to establish the dried fruit industry and Mildura. As a result, the main thoroughfare of Mildura is named after Alfred Deakin. Chaffey Secondary College was originally Mildura Technical School where I was a student in the 1960's.

## NORFOLK ISLAND

On 3 March 2001, the winner of the Norfolk Island section was announced as Megan Cummings, a year 8 student at Norfolk Island Central School. Two other students, Michael Lloyd and Joshua Billman, submitted designs which were considered meritorious.

Both Megan's 20 cent coin and the 50 cent with the Norfolk Island coat of arms were launched on Monday 11 June 2001. These are the first coins specifically designed and struck for Norfolk Island.



*Megan Cummings; Centenary of Federation 20 and 50 cent coins for Norfolk Island*

Megan's design features a map of the Island with a Norfolk Island pine superimposed over it and surrounded by symbols of Norfolk Island – the sun, a bird, and a fish are all symbols of Norfolk Island's natural beauty, while the Island's history is represented by an anchor and a sailing ship.

The bird is a white tern, the sun is a reflection of the beautiful weather experienced on the Island, and the fish represents the marine life. The anchor is that of HMS Sirius, of First Fleet fame, which sank off the Island in 1790. The ship denotes the delivery of supplies and the story of the

## ***CENTENARY OF FEDERATION COMMEMORATIVES***

Islanders, specifically those of the third settlement group who were relocated from Pitcairn Island.

### **NORTHERN TERRITORY**

The winner of the Northern Territory section was announced on Thursday 15 March. Lisa Brett, a year 6 student at Leanyer Primary School in Darwin prepared the winning design. Chanel Rizonico Holy Spirit Primary School in Darwin and Merlissa Moore of Katherine High School were the runners-up. Approximately 80 entries were received from 26 schools in the Northern Territory.



*Lisa Brett; Centenary of Federation 20 and 50 cent coins for the Northern Territory*

Lisa's design was officially launched in Darwin on Wednesday 25 July 2001. It features a pair of Brolgas performing their intricate dance with a representation of water immediately behind them with a range of hills and the open sky in the background. Brolgas are renowned for their graceful dancing while the water represents the environment which home to the brolgas. The hills and open sky represent the beauty of the Northern Territory landscape.

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Lisa Murphy, a Year 9 student at Yankalilla Area School in the Fleurieu Peninsula 75 km south of Adelaide, was announced as the South Australian winner on 22 March 2001. The runners-up were James Drew of Naracoorte High School and Emma Irvine also of Yankalilla Area School. A total of over 300 entries were received from 111 schools in South Australia.

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*Lisa Murphy; Centenary of Federation 20 and 50 cent coins for South Australia*

The South Australian coins were launched on Thursday 30 August 2001. Lisa's elegant design features Sturt's Desert Pea (South Australia's floral emblem) with the Flinders Ranges in the background and also the Southern Cross.

About 400 km long, the Flinders Ranges are the most significant elevated land mass in South Australia and were named in honour of the explorer Matthew Flinders who was the first to use and promote the name "Australia". Sturt's Desert Pea is a strikingly beautiful red and black flower which grows in inland Australia and is named after another explorer, Captain Charles Sturt.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The results of the Western Australia section were announced on 29 March 2001. The winner was Janice Ng a Year 10 student at Forrestfield Senior High School. The runners-up were Justine Anita Bond of John Curtin College of the Arts in Fremantle and Gemma Stewart of Ocean Reef Senior High School in Perth. Approximately 300 entries were received from 95 schools in Western Australia.



*Janice Ng; Centenary of Federation 20 and 50 cent coins for Western Australia*

## ***CENTENARY OF FEDERATION COMMEMORATIVES***

Janice's coin was launched in Perth on Wednesday 5 September 2001. Her design features a bilby and the flower of the kangaroo paw superimposed over a map of Western Australia. While the red and green kangaroo paw is Western Australia's floral emblem, the bilby is one of Australia's best known endangered species and is found in Western Australia's north.

## **TASMANIA**

The last design to be announced was that from Tasmania. The winner was Abbey MacDonald, a Year 11 student at Launceston Church Grammar School. Runners-up were Brad Whitchurch of Hagley Farm Primary and Environment School (near Launceston) and Rachael Gates of Elizabeth College in Hobart. A total of over 200 entries were received from 62 schools.

This coin was launched on Thursday 6 September 2001. Abbey's design features the Thylacine (or Tasmanian Tiger) superimposed over a map of Tasmania.



*Abbey MacDonald; Centenary of Federation 20 and 50 cent coins for Tasmania*

The last thylacine in captivity died in a zoo in Hobart on 7 September 1936. Although officially extinct, there have been numerous sightings in various parts of Tasmania and also South Gippsland in Victoria.

## **FIVE DOLLAR NOTE**

On 18 December 2000, the Reserve Bank of Australia announced that a new five dollar note would be issued, from 1 January 2001, as part of the Centenary of Federation celebrations. It was intended that it would circulate alongside the current \$5 note.

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Designed by Garry Emery, the front of the note features Sir Henry Parkes (from an 1892 painting by Tom Roberts) while the back features Catherine Helen Spence (from a painting by Margaret Preston).



*Centenary of Federation \$5 note - front (shown at 60% of full size)*

Other elements on the front are:

- Tenterfield School of Arts building where Sir Henry Parkes made his famous speech on 24 October 1889 calling for a federated Australia and a national parliament;
- Federation Pavilion in Centennial Park, Sydney where the Commonwealth of Australia was declared on 1 January 1901;
- Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne where the first Federal Parliament was opened on 9 May 1901;
- The opening of the first Federal Parliament by HRH The Duke of Cornwall and York (later King George V); and
- Badges of each of the six States that form the Commonwealth.



*Centenary of Federation \$5 note – back (shown at 60% of full size)*

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Other elements on the back are:

- State Children's Department building used by the State Children's Council of South Australia;
- Southern Cross constellation, which appears on Australia's flag;
- Major campaigners for Federation from each of the Colonies – Andrew Clark (Tas), Edmund Barton (NSW), John Forrest (WA), Alfred Deakin (Vic), Charles Kingston (SA), and Samuel Griffith (Qld);
- Spray of wattle, Australia's national floral emblem; and
- Sunburst, as a symbolic reference to Australia's warm, sunny climate and broad horizons – it appeared on various posters and formal invitations for the 1901 Federation celebrations.

### **SIR HENRY PARKES**

Sir Henry Parkes was born in England in 1815 and migrated to New South Wales in 1839. He became a journalist and took an interest in politics, taking up the cause of political radicalism. He campaigned for universal male suffrage, and in 1848 was a prominent campaigner against the resumption of convict transportation to New South Wales.

After winning a seat in the NSW Legislative Council in 1854, he was elected to the newly formed Legislative Assembly in 1856. Parkes served five terms as Premier of New South Wales between 1872 and 1891.

On 24 October 1889, at a reception in his honour at the Tenterfield School of Arts, he delivered an address calling for the federation of the Australian colonies. The next year he convened a Federation Conference in Melbourne. These activities launched the move towards federation and Sir Henry Parkes became known as the "*Father of Federation*". However, Parkes never lived to see federation having died in 1896.

### **CATHERINE HELEN SPENCE**

Catherine Helen Spence was born in Scotland in 1825 and migrated to South Australia with her family in 1839. She became a journalist, writing mainly on literature, politics and social issues. After converting to Unitarianism about 1856, she became South Australia's first woman preacher in 1878.

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In 1872 she co-founded the Boarding-Out Society which superintended the fostering-out of state dependent children. Until 1886, she alternatively held the positions of Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary. In 1887 it was taken over by the newly formed State Children's Council with which she was actively involved until shortly before her death.

Spence was an advocate of public education and a campaigner for electoral reform. She promoted both proportional representation and the right for women to vote. In 1897 she unsuccessfully contested for election as a delegate for that year's Australasian Federal Convention; in doing so, she became Australia's first female political candidate.

Catherine Helen Spence died in 1910, having never married. The following year, the Catherine Helen Spence Scholarship was established by the South Australia Government to perpetuate her memory.

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Royal Australian Mint, Coin designs and designers



# FROM HALF SOVEREIGN TO ONE DOLLAR

by Frank Robinson, NAV 713 <sup>1</sup>

This paper will be dealing with the Australian coin and note denomination which was equal to ten shillings or one dollar (after decimal currency was introduced), and only those issues which were struck for circulation.

## HALF SOVEREIGN GOLD COINS

At the beginning of the 20th century, gold was still an important medium of exchange. Significant numbers of gold half sovereigns were struck most years from one or more of the three Australian Branches of the Royal Mint (in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth) until 1918 which was the last date struck. These coins had the head of either Edward VII or George V on the obverse and St George and the dragon on the reverse. Struck in 22 carat gold, they weighed almost 4.0 grams.



*Half Sovereign of Edward VII*

## HALF SOVEREIGN / TEN SHILLINGS NOTE

With a change of government in 1910, moves were commenced to print paper money for the national government rather than for the various private banks. The first distinctive note, which was issued on 5 May 1913, was for ten shillings; this was the first time that a government note for less than one pound had been issued anywhere in the British Empire. This note was initially unpopular, partly due to it being a new denomination, but there was also concern in some quarters that it may carry disease from the lower classes to others in the community; however it would appear that most people preferred the gold coin rather than these "*Fisher's Flimsies*".

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<sup>1</sup> Frank delivered this paper to the NAV meeting on 15 December 2000

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In order to help overcome this problem, it was decided to overprint the front of the notes with the words "HALF SOVEREIGN" in red on all four borders and the background of the back of the notes had these same words printed continuously; this was to emphasise their convertibility with gold. These notes were first issued about December 1914, by which time World War I had commenced. The war saw a dramatic increase in the circulation of paper currency and its general acceptance. The back of the notes featured the Goulburn Weir in Victoria. The Treasury notes remained on issue until 1923. All denominations had a basically blue colour; the signatories were Collins (Assistant Secretary) / Allen (Secretary to the Treasury) followed by Cerutti / Collins.



*Treasury Ten shilling note overprinted "HALF SOVEREIGN" (shown at 60% of full size)*

When the Commonwealth Bank took over the responsibility for the issue of Australia's paper currency, all the notes were redesigned with a cameo portrait of George V and the various denominations were printed in different colours; the half sovereign note (the only mention of 10/- is as a light and hard to see watermark) had a basically brown colour and retained the Goulburn Weir on the back. It was first issued on 3 September 1923. The signatories were Miller (Chairman of Directors, Commonwealth Bank) / Collins (Secretary to the Treasury), Kell (Governor, Commonwealth Bank) / Collins (Secretary to the Treasury), Kell / Heathershaw, Riddle / Heathershaw, and Riddle / Sheehan.

## LEGAL TENDER TEN SHILLINGS NOTE

After Australia left the gold standard in 1932, new notes were designed that they were legal tender rather than payable in gold coin. All the notes

## ***FROM HALF-SOVEREIGN TO ONE DOLLAR***

featured a portrait of George V and a watermark of the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) on the front with an allegorical panel on the back. The panel on the ten shilling note features "manufactures" and the note has a basic colour of brown. The signatories were Riddle (Governor, Commonwealth Bank) / Sheehan (Secretary to the Treasury).

As a result of complaints that the brown ten shilling note was too easily confused with the green one pound note, it was decided to overprint them with the words "TEN SHILLINGS" in red. It is also likely this may have been done to emphasise that this note was no longer a half sovereign note that was exchangeable for gold. This note was first issued on 13 April 1934. The design, colour, size and signatories remained the same as the previous issue.

To properly overcome the identity problem of this note, it was redesigned as a smaller note printed basically in orange-red. Apart from replacing the large "½" with "10/-" on the back of the note, the design remained the same, as did the signatories. These notes were first issued on 19 March 1936, by which time George V had died and Edward VIII (the watermark) was king.



*Legal tender (orange-red) issue ten shilling note of George V (shown at 60% of full size)*

After the accession of George VI, a new issue was prepared with his portrait (instead of that of George V) and a watermark of Captain Cook (instead of Edward VIII, who had abdicated). Other aspects of these notes, which were first issued on 28 April 1939, remained the same. From 1942 onwards, the number of notes held by the public significantly increased; this corresponded to the arrival of large numbers of American troops during World War II. The signatories were Sheehan (Governor, Commonwealth Bank) / McFarlane (Secretary to the Treasury), Armitage / McFarlane, Coombs / Watt, Coombs / Wilson.

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With the accession of Elizabeth II in 1952, dramatically new notes were designed. Released on 23 July 1954, the ten shilling note features a portrait of Captain Matthew Flinders on the black and orange front with the previous watermark of Captain Cook. The brown back features the Houses of Parliament in Canberra. The signatories were Coombs (Governor, Commonwealth Bank; later Governor, Reserve Bank) / Wilson (Secretary to the Treasury).

### ONE DOLLAR NOTE

With the 1963 decision to change to decimal currency, a completely new currency was required. Ten shillings became the new major unit of one dollar. Changeover day was 14 February 1966. The orange-brown one dollar note features Elizabeth II and the Australian coat of arms on the front, with an aboriginal bark painting on the back. The watermark is again Captain Cook. The signatories were Coombs (Governor, Reserve Bank) / Wilson (Secretary to the Treasury), Coombs / Randall, Phillips / Randall, Phillips / Wheeler.



*One dollar note Commonwealth of Australia issue (shown at 60% of full size)*

After the election of the Whitlam government in December 1972, a directive was issued requiring the replacement of the term "Commonwealth of Australia" with the name "Australia" wherever possible. As a result, a one dollar note with appropriately revised heading and legal tender clause was released on 11 June 1974; the design itself was otherwise unchanged. The signatories were Phillips (Governor, Reserve Bank) / Wheeler (Secretary to the Treasury), Knight / Wheeler, Knight / Stone, Johnston / Stone. These were sometimes referred to as the "*Whitlam forgeries*". After the next change of government, it was decided not to revert to using the term "Commonwealth".

## *FROM HALF-SOVEREIGN TO ONE DOLLAR*

### **ONE DOLLAR COIN**

Due to the short life span in circulation of one dollar notes, the government decided (in 1981) to replace it with a coin. The aluminium-bronze one dollar coin was released on 14 May 1984 and the one dollar note was withdrawn. The obverse of the coin depicted a portrait of Elizabeth II and the reverse depicts five bounding kangaroos. It has been issued with three different portraits of Elizabeth II: Arnold Machin's in 1984, Raphael Maklouf's from 1985 to 1998 and Ian Rank-Broadley's from 1999.



*The three obverses and the standard reverse for the one dollar coin*

The one dollar coin has been used as a circulating commemorative as follows: International Year of Peace (1986), First Fleet Bicentenary (1988), Landcare (1993), Henry Parkes Death Centenary (1996), Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith Birth Centenary (1997), and International Year of Older Persons (1999).

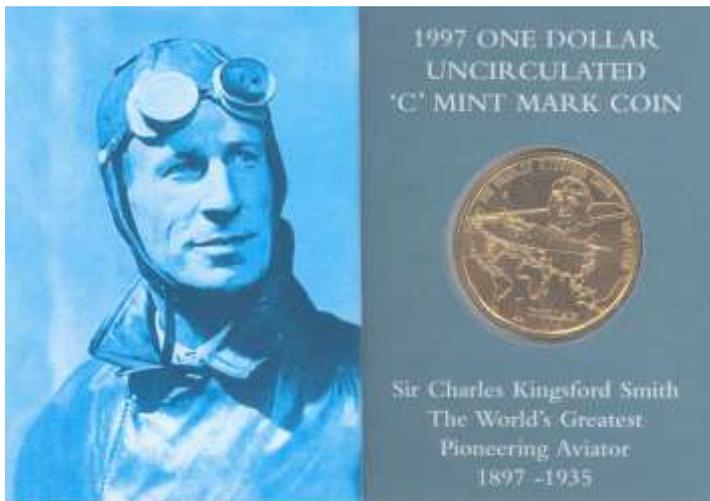


*Four commemorative reverses for the one dollar coin: International Year of Peace, First Fleet Bicentenary, Henry Parkes Death Centenary, and International Year of Older Persons*

The one dollar coin has also been struck to commemorate various other events, but only made available at a premium – usually in special packaging. Some of these were struck by the public – “strike your own one dollar coin” – at either the Royal Australian Mint or at agricultural shows in various capitol cities; as a result, they are referred to in catalogues as “circulation coins”. The events commemorated in this way were: Barcelona Olympic Games (1992), Dollar Decade (1994), Waltzing Matilda Centenary (1995), Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith Birth Centenary

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(1997)<sup>2</sup>, Howard Florey Birth Centenary (1998), The Last ANZACs (1999), HMAS Sydney II (2000), Victoria Cross Birth Centenary (2000), and Olymphilex (2000).



*Commemorative for Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith Birth Centenary*

## CONCLUSION

Thus during the 20th century, the ten shilling / half sovereign denomination has gone from a gold coin to a note with various changes, converted to a decimal currency note before reverting to a coin which has both a standard design and has been used for many commemorative occasions.

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<sup>2</sup> Different design to the mass produced circulation coin.

# PUT A TIGER IN YOUR TANK

By Tilo Junge, NAV 1116

# GST

Name any three letters that have changed the way Australians think and the first letters that come to mind are GST, or the Goods and Services Tax.

What GST means to us, will of course vary from person to person depending on what impact GST has on our daily lives.

For those born from the mid 60's onwards, one could say that GST is the biggest issue that has impacted on our daily lives. Everywhere you go, GST, is there.

Well, for those now over 40 years of age, GST could well be said to be just another curve on the road in life's journey. For in 1966, all Australians faced a more significant change, a new currency standard.

## A NEW CURRENCY FOR AUSTRALIA

A change to a new currency would mean a change to the daily life of all Australians, their every transaction and calculation involving money.

The aim, to provide Australians with an easier and simpler way of doing business, a system compatible with many other of the worlds nations, a system requiring a change from the English Sterling to a new Decimal system.

The day that this was set down to occur was 14 February 1966. To many this was seen as a day of turmoil for our Country. A day when 20 shillings would no longer make a pound, or 12 pence to a shilling. This was a day when threepence had no counterpart, a new dawn when 100 cents made a dollar.

The Government, that made the decision to lead Australians down this path to a new financial wisdom, was that of the Liberal Party, led by the Prime Minister Robert Menzies.

On 7 April 1963, Australia's Treasurer Harold Holt formally announced the Government's decision to decimalise the Australian currency. 'The change

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST 2001

over to a decimalised system to probably occur in February 1966, the date dependant on the construction of the National Mint.’<sup>1</sup>

Other dates of interest leading up to the change over are:<sup>1</sup>

- ◆ 6 June 1963 – Size of new decimal coins announced.
- ◆ 18 September 1963 – Holt announces new currency unit is a ‘Dollar’ not a ‘Royal’.
- ◆ 22 February 1965 – New Mint is opened in Canberra



*Fig 1 – Esso's Decimal Tokens Reverse Side  
(Authors Collection)*

### **THE CHANGEOVER ‘C-DAY’**

‘C-Day’ (Changeover Day) was the media term coined in the lead up to the introduction of the new currency system, for a nation of an estimated ten million people. In the months leading up to C-Day it would have undoubtedly been a torrid affair without today’s telecommunications to disperse adequately the details and information into all corners of the Australian countryside.

Not unlike the GST, a whole new array of systems had to be established and implemented by every business and every person. A ledger book with three columns for £.s.d was now useless, as all that was now needed were

## ***PUT A TIGER IN YOUR TANK***

two columns for \$ & ¢. This of course applied to savings passbooks as well as any forms used to record financial details.

To further complicate the change over process of coming to terms with a whole new array of terms for the value of the coins was the need for Mr and Mrs Average to understand mathematically how to undertake calculations to convert from one system to another.

<b><u>Conversion Table</u></b>					
Here's how easily pounds shillings And pence become dollars and cents					
Pence	Cents	Shillings	Cents	£.s.d	\$
1	1	1	10	/ 10 / -	1.00
2	2	2	20	/ 11 / -	1.10
3	2	3	30	/ 12 / -	1.20
4	3	4	40	/ 13 / -	1.30
5	4	5	50	/ 14 / -	1.40
6	5	6	60	/ 15 / -	1.50
7	6	7	70	/ 16 / -	1.60
8	7	8	80	/ 17 / -	1.70
9	8	9	90	/ 18 / -	1.80
10	8	10	100	/ 19 / -	1.90
11	9			1 / 0 / -	2.00
12	10				

**CONVERSION IS EASY**

To make any sum of pounds shillings and pence into dollars and cents, first make it into shillings and pence. For example, make £3 / 17 / 6 into 77 / 6. Change the pence into cents as in the table. Now we have 77 / 5. Move the stroke back a space and make it a dot. Answer \$ 7.75

Reference – Booklet issued by the State Savings Bank of Victoria

This process in itself was met with community outcry, as the value of some items in the £.s.d had no direct equivalent value in dollars and cents.

Concerns were aired that this would increase in the cost of living, these thoughts are summed up as follows: *“It should be pointed out that manufactures and shops, given a choice of price will charge the higher rather than the lower. Even if it's only a penny, by the time you have bought a few items like this, it'll be ten cents then twenty.”* (not unlike concerns over the GST).



**HELPS YOU TO KNOW YOUR  
NEW DECIMAL CURRENCY**

**1. COINS YOU WILL USE**

**BRONZE**

- 1 CENT—Glider Possum
- 2 CENT—Frisled Lizard

**SILVER**

- 5 CENT—Spiny Anteater
- 10 CENT—Lyre Bird
- 20 CENT—Platypus
- 50 CENT—Australian Coat of Arms

2. There are 100 CENTS in 1 DOLLAR—\$1=10/-

3. You always write the CENTS as part of a DOLLAR like this:—  
 1 CENT=\$0.01  
 5 CENTS=\$0.05  
 20 CENTS=\$0.20

**WHAT IS THE NEW MONEY WORTH  
IN POUNDS, SHILLINGS AND PENCE**

1 PENNY= 1 CENT	8 PENCE= 7 CENTS
2 PENCE= 2 CENTS	9 PENCE= 8 CENTS
3 PENCE= 3 CENTS	10 PENCE= 8 CENTS
4 PENCE= 4 CENTS	11 PENCE= 9 CENTS
5 PENCE= 5 CENTS	12 PENCE=10 CENTS
6 PENCE= 6 CENTS	10/-=\$1
7 PENCE= 6 CENTS	£1=\$2

**HOW TO MAKE RAPID CONVERSIONS**

1. Change the sum to be converted to just shillings and pence. For example, £7/11/7 becomes .. 151/7
2. Change the pence to cents according to the table ..... 151/6
3. Move the stroke back ONE figure and change it to a decimal point. Put the \$ in front ..... \$15.16

**PRACTICE COINS**

In the lead up to the decimal changeover all businesses needed to restructure their financial practices and have ready in place processes to accept the changes required, from cash books to cash registers everything needed to reviewed.

In some cases, companies like Esso, interestingly went to the steps of making plastic coins, believed to be principally used as training aids for their pay clerks and financial staff.

It is also possible that these plastic coins were also made readily available for public promotions and possibly sought by other business to also educate their staff.

**PUT A TIGER IN YOUR TANK**

The practice coins produced by ESSO are interesting in that their design, on the reverse side, incorporates that of the new decimal coins, at a reduced size, with the monetary value of each token written in large letters around the design

The obverse of the token does not carry the Monarchs head, but

is replaced with a design consisting of a tiger head and surrounded in large letters with the slogan "Esso Extra - Puts a Tiger in your Tank".

## ***PUT A TIGER IN YOUR TANK***

The tokens, manufactured in plastic, are also made in the colour representative of its decimal counterpart, ie brown for the 1 and 2 cent and grey for the 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents.

For those that can recall the 1960's, 'Esso Extra' was brand name used by Esso to promote their higher-octane rating petrol (suitable for the modern high compression engines of the day).

The production of these tokens provides us with an interesting combination of training aid and promotional marketing.

An opportunistic marketing idea by Esso, that was probably a first for the industry.

The utilisation of the new coin issue and a consumer product, was undoubtedly an innovative idea in the 1960's, and has probably unknowingly set a standard for today's corporate marketing machine in product saturation techniques.

## **NAMING A CURRENCY**

The announcement of a new decimalised currency no doubt raised considerable debate around the country, in parliament and in the press. One issue that we can be assured that brought about considerable discussion was the naming of the of the currency unit.

The Government's Decimal Currency Committee announced that the currency unit needed a distinctively Australian name. On 8 April 1963 the committee recommended 'Auster', but later changed this to 'Austral'<sup>1</sup>.

A new Decimal Currency Board was established on 4 June 1963 and, on 5 June 1963, it announced that the new unit would be called 'Royal'.

Prime Minister Menzies, a renowned Royalist, supported the use of the term 'Royal'. But, by 23 June 1963 the unpopularity of the term royal by the public was conceded. On 18 September 1963 the choice of the terms 'dollars' and 'cents' was finally agreed.

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<sup>1</sup> Interestingly, the term 'Austral' was used as a currency unit in Argentina from 1985 to 1992 (ed).

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST 2001

### Some of the Thousands of Name Suggestions

A.B.C.D.	Dove	Hallmark	Oz	Sou
Abo	Dutch	Holt	Paroo	Star
Ace	Ear	Jackeroo	Pie	Swaggy
Astro	Ed	Jumbuck	Possum	Talent
Auster	Ewe	Kangaroo	Progress	Tas
Brick	Emu	Kooka	Quakka	Terra
Bobmenz	Fleece	Kwid	Quee	Ubuy
Boomerang	Flog	Lilibet	Ram	Unit
Cobber	Frank	Mamabvel	Red	Victa
Canbury	Friend	Matilda	Reno	Voice
Champ	Galah	Melba	Roo	Wack
Dad	Gem	Merino	Rosella	Waratah

## AUSTRALIA'S FIRST DOLLARS

Surprisingly, the introduction of decimal currency was not Australia's first use of the term 'dollar' for its currency.

In 1813 the then Governor of the Colony of New South Wales, Governor Macquarie, needed to establish a system to alleviate the shortage in the supply of coinage to meet the demands and needs of a struggling settlement of New South Wales.

In late 1812, the sloop of war "Samarang" arrived at Port Jackson carrying £10 000 in specie consisting of 40 000 Spanish Dollars.

Governor Macquarie engaged convict William Henscell to punch a centre plug from the Spanish Dollar, stamping the new ring piece with a value of five shillings and the centre plug fifteen pence.

## *PUT A TIGER IN YOUR TANK*

### **COIN DESIGNS AND FACTS**

An Advisory Panel was established to oversee the designs for the new decimal currency. The panel consisted of Professor Trendall, Professor Burke, A Morrison, D Annand and H Missingham.

The advisory panel commissioned six designers to prepare various proposals; eventually Stuart Devlin's series on Australian wildlife won approval.

The wildlife theme consisted of:

1 cent	-	Feather Tailed Glider
2 cent	-	Frilled Neck Lizard
5 cent	-	Echidna
10 cent	-	Lyrebird
20 cent	-	Platypus
50 cent	-	Coat of Arms

In the lead up to the introduction of decimal currency on 14 February 1966 (C-Day), the Reserve Bank had the task of ensuring sufficient decimal coins were issued to the banks for a smooth transition to decimalisation.

Prior to C-Day a total of 384.5 million coins had been issued, the quantities by denomination are listed below<sup>2</sup>:

1¢	-	221 million
2¢	-	94 million
5¢	-	28 million
10¢	-	27 million
20¢	-	2 million
50¢	-	12.5 million

Although decimal coins were introduced on 14 February 1966, the old and the new currencies were allowed to circulate together. It was anticipated it would take about two years for a complete changeover, in fact it took about 18 months<sup>1</sup>.

### **REFERENCES:**

- 1 Treweeke, O, "Silver Jubilee for Australian Decimal Currency" in *Australian Coin Review*, Issue 320, February 1991, pp16-20
- 2 "The Minting Programme for Decimal Coins" in *Australian Coin Review*, Vol 2 No 11, May 1966, pp14-15

# THE CURRENCIES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## “A CLIMATE OF CHANGE”

by Ross Wilkinson, NAV 1120<sup>1</sup>

### INTRODUCTION

This paper has come about as a result of my own interest, research and collecting although my technical numismatic research has relied primarily on Dr Mira's book, *From Cowrie To Kina* published by Spink and Son in 1986. I was employed by the Australian Government for the Administration of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea from 1968 until 1975 and, after Independence, by the PNG government until 1981.

A brief geographical, socio-economic and historical discussion is required to provide a background to the understanding of this topic.

The numismatic study, for the purpose of this paper, cannot be dealt with other than by a brief run through of the different types used based upon country of origin. I have relied upon the type of currency used by each of the occupying nations and, based upon the chronology of the period under discussion, and distinguished by periodic changes to features on the currency such as obverse and reverse descriptions.

### GEOGRAPHY

Papua New Guinea is part of the New Guinea Island and, as an independent country of the British Commonwealth, comprises the eastern half of the main island, the Admiralty Islands, New Britain, New Ireland and part of the Solomon Islands, and Bougainville.

It is located to the north of Queensland with the Australian border coming within 400 metres of the mainland and shares its western border with the Indonesian province of West Irian.

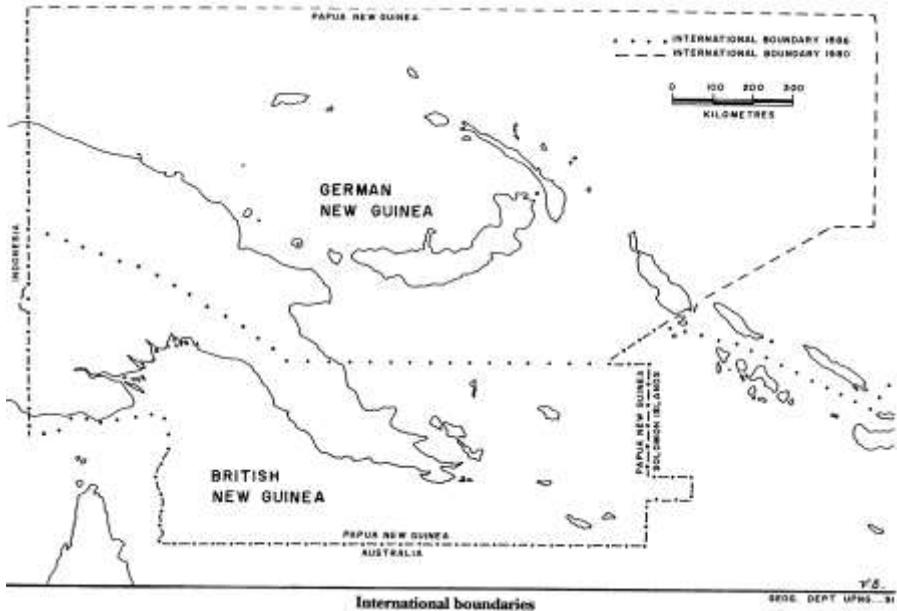
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<sup>1</sup> Ross delivered this paper to the NAV meeting on 16 September 2001 and with it won the Max Stern Trophy for 2001.

## ***THE CURRENCIES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA***

The whole of the main island is called the “Dragon Island” because of its shape.

It lies within the equatorial belt and is subject to both monsoon seasons. Some areas of the island receive in excess of 300 inches (7.6 metres) of rainfall. 375 millimetres overnight in many areas is not uncommon; this is not much less than Melbourne’s average annual rainfall.



*International boundaries of colonial New Guinea (eastern half)*

The main island is generally divided by the mountain range running up its centre spine, rising to heights above 15 000 feet (4500 m), ie over twice the height of Mount Kosciusko (7300 feet or 2200 m).

It lies within the Pacific Rim volcanic belt and has many active volcanoes.

## **SOCIO-ECONOMICAL STUDY**

The population is approximately four million people, made up of several ethnic groups - Papuan, Melanesian, Austronesian and Polynesian. The population spread is mainly rural, with five major towns accommodating the bulk of the urban population of about half a million.

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST 2001

There are an estimated 750 different languages with double that number of dialects. The population communicates through two popularly accepted lingua franca - Neo-melanesian or Pidgin English on the New Guinea side and Hiri or Police Motu in Papua. Other more localised lingua franca exist such as the Lutheran Mission languages of Kote and Jabim. English is the official parliamentary language although the lingua franca are commonly used.

The principle religion is Christianity with the predominant sects being Lutheran and Roman Catholic. Despite this, there is still strong belief in the traditional magico-religious beliefs of evil and good spirits. Most families can only trace back to about three generations of human forebears before an animal ancestor appears in the family history.

Its economy is primarily subsistence agriculture (85% of the population). The principle primary exports are mainly copra, coffee, tea, palm oil, sago, timber and pyrethrum (an insecticide powder).

Mineral and oil mining is on the increase as the political climate permits.

Mining exports are gold, copper, oil and gas, although the latter two are in the early stages of commercial development but have been subject to problems caused by social unrest and political ambitions.

Mining activities are well documented with the very large copper mine on Bougainville being closed due to ongoing political issues. This mine provided one third of the national economy at the time of its closure because of the presence of gold and silver in the copper deposits.

The goldfields of Wau and Bulolo, discovered and developed prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, were at their peak, among the richest in the world, rivalling the goldfields of South Africa. World records were created flying the parts for the large alluvial dredges in on Junkers airplanes. The story of their discovery and development is well documented in Ion Iddreiss' book, *Gold Dust and Ashes*.

The BHP developments in PNG in recent times have received notoriety for the extent of the liability payment to villagers for the damage to traditional fishing and farming resources.

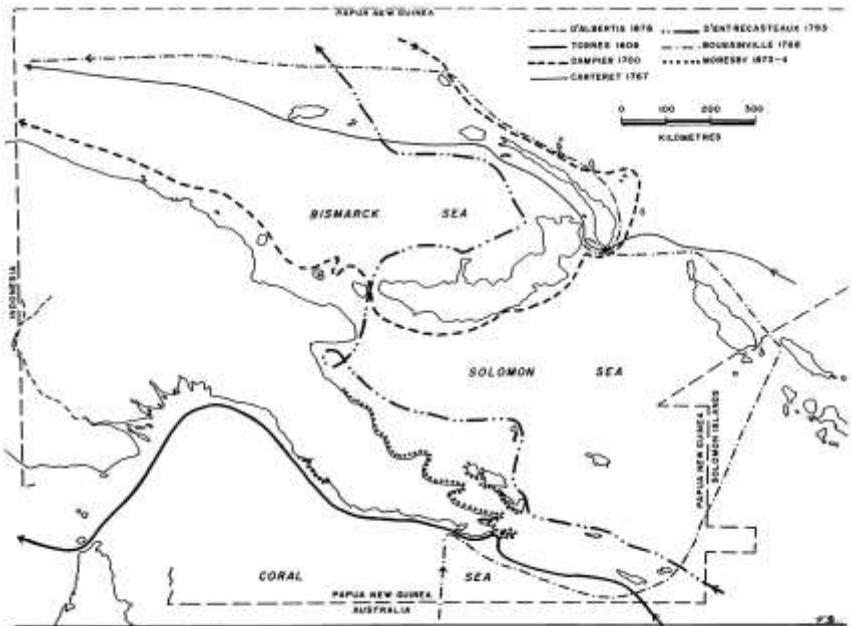
# THE CURRENCIES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## HISTORY

### EARLY EXPLORATION AND COLONISATION

Early exploration of the southwest Pacific Ocean saw the following visits to the coast of New Guinea:

- Torres (Spanish) 1606
- Le Maire (Dutch) 1616
- Dampier (English) 1700
- Carteret (English) 1767
- Bougainville (French) 1768
- d'Entrecasteaux (French) 1793
- Yule (English) 1846
- Mikloucho-Maclay (Russian) 1871/2
- Moresby (English) 1873/4
- D'Albertis (Italian) 1875/7



*Early European exploration*

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST 2001

German trading companies, such as Godeffroy and Sons and the South Seas Trading Company, established links in New Guinea for sandalwood, copra and beche de mer, as well as recruiting kanaka labour, (“*blackbirding*”).

In 1880, Charles de Breil, the Marquis de Ray, established a short-lived French colony on New Ireland in what was to become German New Guinea.

In 1884 the German trading company, Neu Guinea Kompagnie was formed with its headquarters in Rabaul, and became responsible for the administration of the German colony for the German government.

Recognising European colonial expansion in the region, Capt Moresby RN claimed East New Guinea (Papua) for the British Crown in 1874 but this was repudiated by the British government. In 1883, after numerous requests to the Colonial Office, the Queensland government took unilateral action and claimed East New Guinea. This was as a direct fear of other colonising powers’ proximity to the Australian coast. The British government reluctantly recognised this in 1884 (although there is some evidence to suggest that the declaration did not occur until 1888) and so began the English (Australian) colonisation of the part of the island known as British New Guinea (Papua.)

### WORLD WAR ONE

After the declaration of War against Germany, the Australian government established the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF), the “*Coconut Lancers*”, under Colonel W Holmes who became the first Military Administrator. This force invaded German New Guinea on 11 September 1914 and captured the colony for little loss of life. Of numismatic interest, Lt Col N R Howse, VC (who, in 1900 during the Boer War, was the first Australian to win a Victoria Cross while serving with an Australian unit) was part of the expeditionary force as its senior medical officer.

The colony became an Australian mandate for the League of Nations in 1921 and remained under effective Australian control until 1942.

### WORLD WAR TWO

Japan invaded Rabaul in January 1942 and the town became the Japanese headquarters for the Southwest Pacific theatre. After the initial invasion and occupation of the mainland of New Guinea and parts of Papua, a series

## ***THE CURRENCIES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA***

of offensives saw the Japanese reduced to garrison forces on several of the islands including New Britain and Bougainville.

General Blamey issued an order that the surrender of Japanese forces at various points around the south west Pacific would not occur until after the formal surrender in Tokyo Bay on 2 September 1945. The actual surrender of all forces in New Guinea took place on 6 September in Rabaul Harbour.

### **POST WORLD WAR TWO TO INDEPENDENCE**

In 1945 the Australian government prepared for peace by creating the capacity for a civil administration pending the granting of a mandate for New Guinea by the fledgling United Nations. This took the practical approach of dealing with the two entities, Papua and New Guinea, as a single administrative unit. The United Nations mandate was granted in December 1946. This practice continued until 1949 when the Australian government formalised the arrangement by the Papua New Guinea Act and the area was known as the Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

After the election of the Whitlam Labour Government, Australia created self-government for the territory in 1973 with a view to early independence for Papua New Guinea. This was granted on 16 September 1975. The parliament is an elected single chamber house operating under the Westminster system of government. Its head of government is Queen Elizabeth II with a resident Governor General who has always been a PNG national.

## **CURRENCIES**

### **PRE-COLONISATION**

#### ***TRADITIONAL CURRENCY***

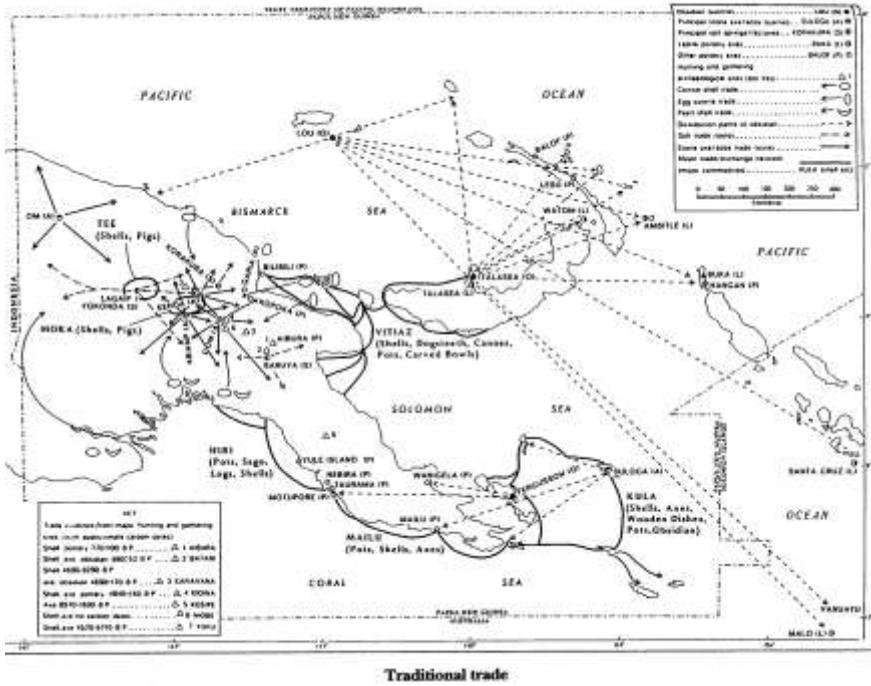
Even in a subsistence economy, currency exists in more traditional forms for payments for matters like Bride Price and traditional compensation. Almost anything has a value and can be used as currency or barter. The more common are the shell based Kina and Toea made famous as the units of currency in the post Independence economy. Others include traditional axes and axe heads, clay pots, pigs' tusks and crocodile teeth.

There was significant traditional trading between many tribal groups. This was mainly in the form of barter but created the medium of exchange of

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST 2001

traditional forms of wealth in many areas. It explains why sea shells could be found in the wealth displays of inland groups.

A notable gap in this tribal trading area is the home area of the famous kukukuku warriors who roamed far and were feared by all.



*Traditional tribal trade routes*

### **COMMERCIAL CURRENCY OF THE EUROPEAN TRADERS**

As with many early colonies, there was little or no declared currency and traders used whatever was available and agreed on a value to the base currency. The standard payment for Chinese and island labour was in Mexican “Libertad” silver “dollars”<sup>2</sup> regardless of the recruiting agency.

Trade goods such as axes, machetes, bolts of cloth and trade or “twist” tobacco were used in exchange for goods or services.

<sup>2</sup> Silver one peso coins of Mexico which were commonly referred to as silver “dollars”

## ***THE CURRENCIES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA***



*Mexico 1 peso coin*

### **BRITISH NEW GUINEA**

In British New Guinea, the circulating coinage was that of Queen Victoria and then Edward VII until Australia produced its first coinage in 1910 with the bust of Edward VII.



*British coins showing the heads of Queen Victoria, and Edward VII*

Notes were either British bank notes or private bank notes until withdrawn with the introduction of Australian Commonwealth notes printed from 1913.

In 1911, new Australian coinage was minted and circulated for the new king, George V, and in 1914 the AN&MEF invaded German New Guinea. In 1938 new currency was minted with the head of the new monarch, George VI, following the death of his father and the abdication of his elder brother, Edward VIII in 1936. The only circulating coin minted in 1937 with George's bust was the crown (5 shillings).

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*Australian coins showing the heads of George V and George VI*

### GERMAN NEW GUINEA

Standard German coinage and notes were in circulation up to 1894 when the Neu Guinea Kompagnie received permission to mint its own coinage of silver and copper denominations; this was followed by an issue of gold coins in 1895. Only the one mintage was made as, very shortly after, the Company requested that the German government resume the administration of the colony. This coinage remained in circulation alongside German government minted coinage and bank notes until 1921.



*German Neu Guinea Kompagnie 10 pfennig and German Imperial 1 mark coins*

After the 1914 invasion, the Australian military administrator, Col Holmes, sought supplies of currency for the administration of the colony to supplement the 4500 pounds brought ashore for the payment of troops. As this was not provided, he made an order unpopular with many in Australia that the German currency would continue to circulate at its face value. He also provided for the issue of paper Rabaul Treasury notes with various face values in German currency.

Even though this was seen as unpatriotic in a time of war, he considered that it would greatly undermine the hoarded wealth of the colony to withdraw it or discount it as was the practice in other areas. Gradually German currency was withdrawn from use and an indication of the type of circulating currency was the return to the Treasury in Australia of German silver and gold specie including \$US970 in gold US coinage.

## ***THE CURRENCIES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA***



*USA 5 dollar gold coin*

In 1916, Col Petherbridge replaced Col Holmes and rescinded the use of German paper currency including the treasury notes. However the German coinage continued to circulate but at a discounted rate of one shilling to one mark. This remained in force until 1921 through a succession of military administrators.

### **MANDATED NEW GUINEA TERRITORY**

From 1921 onwards, Australian currency circulated in both specie and paper form. However, in 1929, there was an ill fated attempt to create the mandate's own coinage. Unfortunately the halfpenny was the same size as the Australian shilling and could be mistaken for the silver coin when rolled in paper. The banks had created a custom of rolling shillings into a five pound roll, called a "fuse" in Pidgin because it did not look dissimilar to a stick of gelignite, so it was feared that fraudulent substitution could occur in this way. The coins were never released into circulation and returned to the Australian Treasury for melting down.

The design of these coins became the basis for the design of the silver shillings created subsequently for release in 1935, 1936, 1938 and 1945. Of interest is the obverse design allegedly based on New Guinea artifacts held in the Melbourne museum. It has a striking similarity to the Norwegian 1 Krone coin including size, design and central hole.



*Territory of New Guinea 1 shilling and Norway 1 krone coins (note the similar designs)*

It was a requirement of the government that all coins of whatever denomination produced for New Guinea had to have holes for stringing by the natives. Also, note the wide range of countries that produce coins with

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST 2001

holes in them. The most famous in Australia's history is the Holey Dollar and that was produced because it created a second coin.



*Territory of New Guinea coins for 1 penny, 3 pence, 6 pence, and 1 shilling*

Legally, these coins were produced for the mandate and could not circulate in the Australian Territory of Papua. As there was reasonable migration through indentured labour, particularly during the second world war, the currency was accepted in Papua through common sense, much the same way New Zealand currency circulates through our economy now.

### JAPANESE INVASION

As with their occupation of other countries, the Japanese printed “Invasion Money” (JIM) in the currency of the invaded country. They forbade the natives to use anything other than the invasion notes. Because metals were in short supply in Japan and required for the war effort, the currency was paper based. The aim was not to produce a currency for the currency's sake but to politically destabilise the existing currency in the short term to create long term dependency on the Japanese government.



*Japanese Invasion Money for Oceania, 10 shilling note (shown at 60% of full size)*

The Japanese troops used Japanese currency amongst themselves, but could only use the invasion notes when dealing with the native population. Dr Mira reports that, as troop reinforcements arrived later in the war,

## ***THE CURRENCIES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA***

invasion notes from the other theatres were introduced. Whilst many of these notes were destroyed by the Allied forces as they regained lost territory, many also found their way back to Australia and the USA as troops returned home with these curios.

In many cases, there was distrust of the JIM and the native population returned to traditional forms of barter and exchange until the Allies were able to reintroduce Australian currency.

### **WARTIME AND POST-WAR AUSTRALIAN CURRENCY**

Australian coinage and banknotes of the day continued to circulate as the currency for Australian and USA troops and administrative personnel.

Of interest in the wartime section of my collection, is an Australian Sheehan / McFarlane 10/- note I acquired from an American source endorsed by an American serviceman on New Britain in May 1944 with the exchange rate of \$US 1.61. Compare that to today's rate of \$US 0.51<sup>3</sup>!



*Australian Sheehan / McFarlane 10/- note marked with the exchange rate of \$US 1.61  
(shown at 60% of full size)*

In 1947, by notice in the Papua New Guinea Gazette, all Australian specie (including the holed New Guinea coins) were accepted as general currency for the two territories. This accommodated the single administration of the two entities.

In 1953 we saw the introduction of further design changes with the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne. Whilst the coinage change was only to the monarch's bust, the change to the design of the circulating paper currency was quite significant.

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<sup>3</sup> September 2001

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST 2001



*Australian pre-decimal and decimal coins showing different heads of Elizabeth II*

Finally, in 1966, the territory saw the introduction of Australian decimal currency. Previous currency changes, other than the removal of the German and Japanese currencies, did not include rapid removal from circulation. Coinage and banknotes generally remained in circulation and were only removed when past their useful life.

Decimalisation required the wholesale removal of the pre-decimal currency from circulation. The native population were hoarders of wealth and this requirement created panic and doubt.

### **INDEPENDENCE AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA CURRENCY**

Following the granting of self-government in 1973, the country's leaders recognised the need to design national currency for its independent future. Coinage was designed by both PNG traditional artists and designers from the Royal Mint London. The bank notes were similarly designed but with the assistance of Australia's Note Printing Branch of the Reserve Bank.

The units of currency were named after traditional currency with the Kina having a face value of \$A1 and the Toea equivalent to 1 cent. The Kina was chosen to be a coin with a holed centre to represent links to the past currencies.



*Papua New Guinea 1 kina coin*

## ***THE CURRENCIES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA***



*Papua New Guinea coins of 1, 2, 5, 10, and 20 toea and common obverse*

Proof and Specimen coinage was minted by the Franklin Mint and the circulating currency was minted by the Royal Mint in London. The Royal Australian Mint assisted with the production of about four million 1 Kina coins.

The Note Printing Branch produced all of PNG's bank note requirements.



*Papua New Guinea, 5 kina paper note (shown at 60% of full size)*

19 April 1975 was selected as K Day (Kina Day) and an eight month changeover period allowed when dual currency could circulate. A further two month period of grace was granted for free exchange but this was again extended until the end of March 1976. After this there was a 5 toea commission for each dollar exchanged. This currency circulates today.

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST 2001



*Papua New Guinea, 2 kina polymer note for the 9<sup>th</sup> South Pacific Games (shown at 60% of full size)*

The only change that has occurred since independence is the adoption of polymer technology for its bank notes. Papua New Guinea is one of about 24 countries to use Australia's polymer technology from Note Printing Australia.

### CONCLUSION

This paper has given only a very cursory view of the numerous changes to the circulating currencies of Papua New Guinea since colonisation. Also, opportunity and cost has prevented me from providing examples of all relevant currencies to this presentation.

As a government officer, I was ideally placed to witness the impact of currency change on the native population post decimalisation and independence. I guess the many changes are best summed up by one native who remarked to me that he was confused as the government had only recently got him to understand the Australian decimal system and it changed again with Independence only nine years later.

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# WELCOME STRANGER MEDALLION

by Frank Robinson, NAV 713 <sup>1</sup>

Molten gold was extruded from the earth's mantle with molten silica through fissures (cracks) in the earth's crust. As the silica cooled, it solidified to form the mineral we know as quartz; if gold is present, it is referred to as "auriferous quartz". In time (geologically), some of these "veins" or "reefs" of auriferous quartz are exposed on the surface and are eroded; this erosion frequently separates the gold from the quartz (which is broken down to grains of sand). Being very heavy, the gold gets washed downwards to the lowest possible point – this is alluvial gold which may vary in size from small specks to very large nuggets. Sometimes it is trapped by an obstacle and may get covered by other sediments. The watercourse may change direction leaving the gold buried in the ground.

Goldfields, and subsequent rushes, are usually initiated by the discovery of alluvial gold. The subsequent search for gold will usually result in the discovery of nuggets of gold for a few of the lucky prospectors, while others may only get a few specks or nothing at all.

One such pair of prospectors were two Cornishmen – John Deason and Richard Oates. They had arrived in Australia in 1854 and had been trying their luck on various goldfields before they settled to work at Moliagul near Dunolly in central Victoria in 1862. Despite two nuggets worth £100 and £400, they were barely able to survive and by February 1869 they were on the point of giving up.

On Friday 5 February 1869, Deason was digging around the roots of an old tree when his pick rebounded from a blow. Then he called to Oates to come and have a look at what he had found. It took some more digging before they revealed the full extent of the enormous nugget. After freeing it, they half-carried, half-dragged it to Deason's cottage. They built up the fire and placed the nugget on it to burn the quartz and remove the dirt and rubbish.

Next day they hired a dray and took their find to Dunolly, gathering a crowd as they approached the London Chartered Bank. Apparently Deason went into the bank and asked the manager how much he would give for a

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<sup>1</sup> Frank delivered this paper to the NAV meeting on 20 July 2001

## ***WELCOME STRANGER MEDALLION***

lump of gold as big as his head! The manager thought he was drunk, but then heard the crowd outside and decided to investigate and saw in the cart the world's biggest alluvial nugget.

On 9 February, the nugget was broken up on an anvil at a Dunolly blacksmith, apparently so that it could weighed. The weight is variously given as 2268½ ounces (Blanche), 2284 ounces (Peach), 2284 ounces 16 pennyweights 22 grains (Ahearn), and 2520 ounces (Barker), [2520 ounces gross weight (medallion),] corresponding to a range from 70.558 kg upto 78.381 kg. The Guinness Book of Records states 69.92 kg (2248 troy ounce) of pure gold from 70.92 kg (2280¼ troy ounce). The bank paid Deason and Oates £9534 for 2251 ounces of pure gold (£4/4/8½d per ounce). At today's prices<sup>2</sup>, this mass of gold would be worth \$A1 345 480.

Apparently Deason and Oates had broken off small pieces of the nugget prior to taking it to Dunolly. A plaster cast was not made of the nugget, nor were photographs taken, however drawings were made. A model, which was made from these drawings, can be seen in the museum at Dunolly. The anvil on which the nugget was broken up is on a cairn in front of the museum.



*"Welcome Stranger" medallion issued in 1969*

In 1969, the Goldfields' Historical & Arts Society (Dunolly) issued a 48 mm diameter gilded bronze medallion (which was struck by Stokes) to commemorate the centenary of the discovery of this famous nugget. The obverse features the nugget on the anvil it was broken up on with a crossed

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<sup>2</sup> July 2001

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST 2001

pick and shovel below and the issuer's details around. The reverse has the inscription "TO COMMEMORATE / THE FINDING OF THE / WORLD'S LARGEST / GOLD NUGGET / "THE WELCOME STRANGER" / 2520 OZS. GROSS WT. / ON FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> 1869 / AT MOLIAGUL VICTORIA / - AUSTRALIA - / BY / JOHN DEASON & / RICHARD OATES" with "1869" above and "1969" below.

In 1986, "The Welcome Stranger" also featured on the 1 oz in the first of the "Australian Nuggets" gold proof coin series.

### NOTE ON WEIGHTS

Gold is traditionally weighed in troy ounces, and its fractional units of pennyweights and grains, whereas most other commodities were weighed (in the Imperial system) as pounds and ounces avoirdupois. In both systems, the grain was the smallest unit of measure and was identical to both. The conversions for these units are as shown in the following table:

1 grain		=	64.798 x 10 <sup>-6</sup> kg	
1 troy ounce	=	480 grains	=	31.103 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> kg
	=	20 pennyweights		
1 pennyweight	=	24 grains	=	1.555 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> kg
1 ounce (avoirdupois)	=	437.5 grains	=	28.349 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> kg
1 pound (avoirdupois)	=	16 ounces (avoirdupois)	=	0.453 59 kg
	=	7000 grains		

### Stated weights of the Welcome Stranger nugget converted to kilograms

2268.5 tr oz	=	70.558 kg	2268.5 av oz	=	64.311 kg
2284/16/22	=	71.067 kg			
2520 tr oz	=	78.381 kg	2520 av oz	=	71.441 kg
2284 tr oz	=	71.040 kg	2284 av oz	=	64.750 kg
2248 tr oz	=	69.921 kg	2248 av oz	=	63.730 kg
2280.25 tr oz	=	70.924 kg	2280.25 av oz	=	64.644 kg

### DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS OF NUGGET

"a lump of native gold" (Macquarie)

"a small lump of gold in its natural state" (Collins)

"a rough lump of native gold" (Shorter Oxford)

## WELCOME STRANGER MEDALLION

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# THE MONKEY-MAN COINAGE OF SOUTH INDIA AND CEYLON

by Len Henderson, NAV 409 <sup>1</sup>

One of the great, but now comparatively forgotten, dynasties of India was the Chola Dynasty which lasted from about 850 AD until about 1300 AD. This empire extended over a large part of the subcontinent in the area now referred to as Tamil Nadu. Their invasions extended into northern Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Burma and Malaysia.

The Cholas were always a marauding race who thought the best way to get rich was to rob from its neighbours. Unlike other dynasties, they did not aggrandise themselves with amazing claims of their greatness, nor did they keep the loot they had acquired; this was given away almost as quickly as they gained it.

The Cholas were a Dravidian people first mentioned in Ashoka's rock inscriptions. During the long Pallava supremacy they were a minor race who paid tribute to their more powerful overlords to the north. It was whilst the Pallavas were busy fighting their rivals in the Karnataka that the Chola seized the opportunity to develop their own ambitions. A decisive battle took place in 897 (or perhaps a little earlier) when the Chola king Aditya intervened in a Pallavan succession crisis. The initial gains did not last long, for in 949 the Cholas were defeated by Krishna III, the last of the great Rashtrakutas.

However, after forty years of trying to recover lost territories, Rajaraja I played off one kingdom against another and in 985 was able to gain land, and booty, in Kerala. His triumphs were followed by the first of a series of invasions in Ceylon (variously called Lanka, Serendip, and Sri Lanka). The ancient capital of Anuradhapura was sacked and its temples plundered with a rapacity worthy of the Huns looting Italy. Later still Rajaraja is said to have conquered 'twelve thousand old islands'; an exaggeration for what was meant to be the Maldivian Islands in the Indian Ocean. These islands were rich in pearls and pearl shell.

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<sup>1</sup> Len delivered this paper to the NAV meeting on 16 February 2001

## ***THE MONKEY-MAN COINAGE OF SOUTH INDIA AND CEYLON***

In the course of several campaigns more triumphs were recorded by the Cholas and we know this from inscriptions left behind by those they conquered: "*The Chola army behaved with exceptional brutality slaughtering women, children and priests.*" The northern campaigns seem to have been masterminded by a son of Rajaraja I, who would succeed him as Rajendra I in 1014. It was Rajaraja who ordered the erection of a large temple in Tanjore which is still said to be "*the largest and the tallest*" in the area; it took about fifteen years to build. It was filled with wall paintings (still recognisable) and had a staff of dancing girls, musicians, celebrants and servants. Mohammedan writers say that there were five hundred dancers and as many Brahmin priests.

While these figures could easily be another exaggeration, we know that the Brahmins were well educated and were put in charge of canals for the irrigation of the land. All of this was financed by the loot obtained from the various wars. They included the equivalent of 230 kg of gold, even more of silver, and jewels by the sackful; all in just one minor war.

Of course, with any warfaring peoples, when the Cholas were busy raiding one place this gave their neighbours a chance to invade them. One example of this was when Sundara Pandyan swept through the land and burnt down the Chola capital and was able to take the title '*Conqueror of the Chola country*'. The city we now call Tanjore had to be almost completely rebuilt.

The Cholas were soon able to rebuild with the money and goods they had looted from their neighbours. They used five weapons in warfare: the sword, the dagger, the bow, the heavy lance, and the club. All nobles were trained in the use of the sword. As well, they went into battle with dagger bearers. The heavy lance is often mentioned in the chronicles. The lance with a relic and a standard was the emblem of the king. Shorter spears were probably javelins. Some reports also record throwing darts and imply the shield was used as a weapon. The army had several thousand men, tall and strong, who were armed with clubs.

The gold, silver and copper they obtained was converted into coins of set weights. As with medieval England, the weights of grain and seed were used as a standard. In England at about this time the penny was the equivalent of 22 or 24 grains of wheat taken from the centre of the stalk. In the Chola lands, coins were to be measured against *nenmani* (or *nel*) - a grain of rice taken from the centre of the husk. Other grain seeds were

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mentioned with weights going up to between 52 and 53 grains troy. The weight was later raised to 63 grains.

In 1020, while completing the campaign in Vengi (Andhra Pradesh), the army pushed on to Kalinga (Orissa). There the generals were told to bring back water from the sacred Ganges River. This they did and the water was carried in jars and kept in a vast man-made lake as a sacred bathing pool. This pool was a vast sheet of water five kilometres long which came to be known as the 'Chola Ganga'. Much later this water was used for irrigation purposes.

In search of more plunder Rajendra hit upon a naval expedition to Burma and other parts of south-east Asia. The king took the title of '*Conqueror of Burma*' after his fleet had raided five coastal towns. [*In much the same way Julius Caesar had claimed to have conquered all England in 55 BC after a short campaign in the southern regions.*]

Chola traders went off as far as Malaysia and semi-permanent towns were established. The Cholas also settled down in northern Ceylon (where the Tamils are still causing trouble there to this day wanting to set up an independent state).

Another far-reaching scheme that came to nothing was a plan for the conquest of China. The Cholas knew that China was very rich and because of various local invasions they thought they could invade this mighty empire. [*In a similar way when William of Normandy had conquered England his brother, Odo, had planned to invade Italy and make himself Pope! That plan came to nothing when Odo died before he could get his army together.*]



*Coins of Rajaraja (993 – 1014)*

Whilst some of the Chola coins bear titles to their claims of great conquest, most merely give the kings name, and the design for many years was quite standard. The reverse (the main part of the design) shows a figure in a wide flowing dhoti, so that the figure looks as if it has four legs. The obverse shows the figure of a goddess holding a lamp and a flower with the king's name to the right – this is read vertically from right to left. The

## ***THE MONKEY-MAN COINAGE OF SOUTH INDIA AND CEYLON***

human figures were quite simply shaped with the king's head made by three horizontal strokes and a curve behind it. The body is clothed in a dhoti which gave the appearance of a figure with a tail and early numismatists thought it showed Hunnuman, the monkey god, and the coins were described in this way, hence the title of my paper. With the figures appearing to have six limbs, I cannot see how anyone could think it was a monkey!

Much later, an Englishman named Robert Knox (who was a prisoner of the Ceylonese for close to twenty years) wrote a description of the land. In it he says that anyone could make their own coins; he must have been describing token coinage and did not know the difference. The history of the land is recorded in two great works – the *Culavamsa* and the *Mahavamsa*. In these works many of the kings are glossed over while others have their life history stressed. Indeed, sixteen of the kings are mentioned in only one chapter while fifteen chapters are used to give the life of just one king.



*Coins of Queen Lilavati (1197 – 1200)*

Queen Lilavati reigned for less than four years and in that time was twice deposed and reinstated. Her coins are fairly common but King Sahasamala (who succeeded her and also reigned for only a short time) has a common coinage but Dambadeniya (who reigned for twenty years) has very few coins to his name. A few usurpers claimed to be '*Lord of Ceylon*' and, while they get into the history books, are hardly known as coin issuers. The quality of the coins degenerated and gold and silver became scarcer.

The rule of the kings became extremely autocratic which led to many of the nobles thinking they could do just as good a job, or even better, as king. This led to a state of high suspicion and a great increase in 'state security' with everyone spying on everyone else. Even with a hint of intrigue, anyone could be arrested and torn apart by elephants. There was so much fear and distrust.

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*Coin of Parakrama (either  
1153 – 1186 or 1236 – 1271)*

Dharmasoka Deva was only three months old when he came to the throne and he reigned for only one month before being slaughtered by his Prime Minister (Anikanga) who, in his turn, lasted barely a year. No coins for either of these kings are known, and a number of other kings did not have time to issue any coinage. A type of stability came to the land with the usurpation of Parakrama III. His son, Wijaya-Bahu, was murdered by his Prime Minister, Mitra Sena, after a reign of two years. Mitra Sena was himself murdered shortly afterwards.



*Coins of Bhuvanaika Bahu (1273 – 1284)*

With traders coming from many parts of Europe, coins from Holland, Spain, Portugal, England and France began to be used. Indeed one hundred years ago numismatists were struggling to fit some coins into the series before realising they were fractions of Dutch stivers!

The Cholan coins, and rulers, I have been describing were the main, but not the only pieces in use by the rulers. These copper coins were called karshapanas and massas; they could buy a lot in those days. For simple use people used cowrie shells and the rate of exchange was 24 300 cowries to one karshapana / massa<sup>2</sup>! Within a few centuries the exchange rate had dropped to only 1280 cowries to the karshapana.

The internal family squabbles continued until one final king seized the throne, was crowned, and assassinated one day later! With the nobles fighting among themselves so much their neighbours, who had been invaded so often, took the opportunity to invade, loot, and destroy.

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<sup>2</sup> Two different names for the same coin

## ***THE MONKEY-MAN COINAGE OF SOUTH INDIA AND CEYLON***

The Cholan empire never recovered and became a tributary of the Sultans of Madurai in south India. The last king of the Cholas had no time to issue any coins but at least he got into the history books.

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# REMEMBERING FRITZ HUBERT SCHAFER <sup>1</sup>

By Athol and Don Schafer<sup>2</sup>



Fritz Schafer was born on 7 July 1886 and died 21 December 1975.

## CHILDHOOD

Fritz Schafer's childhood was centred around his parent's home in Stewart Street, Windsor where around the corner in Union Road was his grandfather's house. It must have been in the early nineties<sup>3</sup> when his big sister Connie first escorted him to school, his first teacher being a young Miss Hawthorn who happened to live next door to the Schafers.

Fritz's older brother Eddy was a keen experimenter with, among many other things, gas engines. One day he miscalculated and a loud explosion rocked the backyard. Mr Hawthorn's face cautiously appeared over the fence – "anyone shot?". (Miss Hawthorn was still enrolled as a State School teacher in 1954 and later married at the age of 84.)

When Craig's Emporium caught fire (which spread and devastated half a city block between Flinders Street and Flinders Lane) the young schoolboy, attracted by the clouds of smoke, ran the length of St Kilda Road to join the crowds of onlookers. Over seventy years later he was relating the event to

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<sup>1</sup> This article resulted from a request to Athol Schafer from Peter Wall (NAV 323)

<sup>2</sup> sons of Fritz Schafer

<sup>3</sup> ie 1890s

## **REMEMBERING FRITZ HUBERT SCHAFER**

a contemporary of the earlier era, Jimmy Gibbs, who confessed that he had also ran to the fire all the way from Collingwood!

About the turn of the new century<sup>4</sup> Fritz was attending a private school situated on the corner of Toorak and Williams Roads, known as East Lynn (Prahran College) and run by the three elderly sisters, the Misses Laing. Another pupil there at the same time was a Haden Henshelwood, who became later the future brother-in-law of Fritz when in 1918 the latter married Haden's younger sister, Florence, who, by the way, also had attended Laings'. The school was still in existence in the late 1920s.

### **NATURAL HISTORY**

As a young teenager developing an interest in the natural history of bushland and seashore he went out on excursions run by the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. It was at the time when Baldwin Spencer, the anthropologist, when on leave from his scientific expeditions led some of the outings, and this could have been partly instrumental in arousing Fritz's abiding interest in things aboriginal. An early pointer of this was when he and another boy, carrying a tent and poles between them, struggled up the side of Mount William, to investigate the aboriginal quarry at an outcropping rock of black diorite.

Trips to the Coranderk Reserve<sup>5</sup> brought him in closer contact with aborigines; an elder showed him how to secure a handle to a stone axe and a boy, about his age, demonstrated the skill of locating and obtaining a supply of native honey.

When we were kids growing up in Glen Huntly, he planted part of our backyard with gum trees and with pieces of that wood would fashion shields for us and would decorate them with aboriginal designs. He showed us how to make and swing a bullroarer, and created a black snake by jamming a carved snake's head into the length of old hosepipe, and then festooned it in the branches of a gum tree. On Sunday mornings he would take us on tours of the vacant allotments of Lyons, Morgan and Miller Streets<sup>6</sup> in search of artefacts. The area bordered on the site of Lehman's Swamp where once wildlife was a source of bush tucker. A prize discovery

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<sup>4</sup> ie the beginning of the twentieth century

<sup>5</sup> near Healesville

<sup>6</sup> in Carnegie

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was a diorite stone axe, evidently once quarried and traded by tribes between Mount William, near Lancefield, and Carnegie.



*Fritz Schafer at Brighton Beach*

All his life he enjoyed fossicking around bayside middens, Elwood and Brighton being favourite sites where flints and bone awls, and fragments of trading clay pipes, were easily spotted and picked up. In the 1970s Point Ormond was being landscaped, and Fritz, then in his mid-eighties picked out a fine specimen of a flint scraper in the upturned soil of a newly prepared garden bed. One story he liked to tell was that of a sharpening stone found sticking out of sand at high water mark at Altona Beach.

It was in either 1899 or 1900 when he commenced work in his father's jewellery business at 242 Swanston Street, Melbourne. As a young member of the Victorian Artists Society he felt justifiably proud, when, at an enamelling exhibition, his entry was displayed next to that of the Governor's wife's. On Saturday afternoons or Friday nights he would go exploring the Victoria and Eastern markets looking for curiosities and collectables, a practice he kept up much of his adult life. A few years after World War I he was rummaging through old papers that had been thrown out at one of the markets. He was surprised to find among them military

## **REMEMBERING FRITZ HUBERT SCHAFER**

orders (which could have been connected with the Dardanelles). Needless to say the find was promptly handed in to the St Kilda Road Barracks.

In the early twentieth century shops kept open for long hours, which was especially frustrating for workers on Saturday afternoons. Some activists started a campaign to reduce hours – and Fritz joined in. The effort succeeded, and, likewise a plea to the railway commissioners to delay the departure of the midday Saturday train to Lilydale so it would depart Flinders Street Station an hour later, so as to give time for Saturday morning workers to catch it. Fritz was then able to get to Coranderrk, Healesville or take the coach up the Black Spur to Narbethong.

### **MILITARY INTEREST**

As a small boy he enjoyed standing at the gate of the artillery range at Albert Park and wait for the order from the mounted officer to open it to let the horse-drawn field guns and crew dash in. When he was old enough he joined the militia, then compulsory for all able-bodied males, soon becoming a lieutenant and ADC to Surgeon General Williams. When war broke out in 1914 he was disappointed in not being able to enlist on account of contracting TB. The next few years were spent throwing off the disease mainly by relaxing and sunbaking on the beaches of Sydney – some of the happiest days of his life, he'd say. While there he joined a Freemasons Lodge, learning how to speak in public. During the wartime referenda on conscription, one of his army friends warned him of the government's secret agenda, a threat that Australians of German descent would be interned if they voted no.

In the first decade of the new century when Teddy Roosevelt was President of the United States of America, the USA battlefleet ("*The Great White Fleet*" as it was known) visited Melbourne, as well as other Australian ports of call as a show of reassurance and friendship in an ever increasingly belligerent world. Fritz as a St John's first-aider was just one of the many volunteers that gave service to the great crowds that welcomed the sailors. A framed certificate acknowledging his involvement hung proudly for many years in the family dining room.

He was always interested in firearms, especially old fowling pieces and flintlocks, and had a collection of powderhorns and bullet molds. Sometimes he would take one of us boys to a visit of one of his friends, Bill Cole, a resident of Glen Huntly, who had an impressive collection of all sorts of guns, not only hunting guns, but many kinds of old time

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“wild-west” pistols, one of which was the “four-fingered” pistol, and another a tiny lady’s silver single-shot life preserver!

The advent of the Second World War saw him joining the Legion of Frontiersmen, a sort of empire home-guard organisation with Saturday afternoons being taken up with competitive shooting matches at the Williamstown rifle range, where one year he won the top marksman’s trophy. He’d say target practice was better than taking pills for steadying the nerves!

During this period he commenced to learn Morse code on a board to which was fixed a key, a buzzer and a battery. Another wartime activity was joining the local ARP<sup>7</sup>.

### MUSEUM

As either an early or a founding member of the Royal Victorian Historical Society he had got to know Mr Kenyon who looked after the coin collection in the National Museum of Victoria, and it was at the museum that Fritz started as an attendant after he closed his business in 1943.

He was no stranger to the museum and art gallery being a frequent visitor, so much so, that he had been dubbed by the staff as the “inspector”. Later he became the museum’s acting numismatist, preparing replies to people’s enquiries about coins. He also became friendly with Sir Daryl Lindsay who was then director of the gallery. After ten enjoyable years working at the museum he retired at the age of 67 (in 1953).

### NUMISMATICS

In retirement he kept up and enjoyed contact with the friends he had made through his many interests. Many of those friends were made through the Numismatic Society sharing a common interest in coins and medals. Some of those he knew were: Ted Kennedy, Bill Curran, Ted Millet, John Dawes, and Padre Bremer. Others were Bill Cole (guns), Alfred Chitty (tokens), Phil Drage (medals), Ronny Pullen, and John Gunning (Aboriginal artefacts).

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<sup>7</sup> ie Air Raid Precautions (one of the civil defence organisations)

## *REMEMBERING FRITZ HUBERT SCHAFER*

### **HOW FRITZ OBTAINED HIS 1930 PENNY**

Fritz was a keen collector of coins and during the 1940's he would always ask the clerk in the ticket office at the station when he bought his weekly ticket if he had any success. He had an arrangement with the clerk to look out for a 1930 penny (possibly other halfpence and three-pence coins also).

In 1949 I<sup>8</sup> was working at Horsham and was invited to join the social club's table tennis team one evening. When it was my turn to play I took a coin from my pocket to toss for the right to serve first. On picking it up I glanced at the date and was surprised to see it was 1930. I posted it off to Dad the next day. I do not remember the result of the table tennis game but will always remember finding that penny. I have often wondered how long it had been circulating in the Horsham district.

Whilst Dad was very interested in coins he was much more passionately keen on War Decorations. He would acquire a medal, find out the name of the recipient and then find out all he could about that person's career in the service. His favourite medals were those awarded to participants in the Battle of Waterloo.

Some years after finding the 1930 penny Dad asked me if I would mind if he swapped the penny for some medals. I replied that the penny was his to do with as he pleased. Thus the penny passed from him in exchange for some medals. I think Padre Bremer was the recipient.

Much later, perhaps a decade on, I used to trim Dad's hair for him. One day as I was snipping away he said "Don't mention the penny while Mother is about, she gets upset". As that was thirty years ago I expect its value has appreciated a great deal more since then.



*Fritz Schafer in 1960*

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<sup>8</sup> Don Schafer

## OBITUARY

The following obituary appeared on page 2 of the Jan / Feb 1976 issue of the *Australian Numismatist*:

### FRITZ HUBERT SCHAFFER

PASSED AWAY 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 1975. Aged 89 years.

And so with the passing of Fritz Schaffer the Numismatic Association of Victoria lost its last link with the old Numismatic Society of Victoria.

To those older members who were privileged to know him, Fritz was a fine, warm man, generous to a fault and always ready to help with advice or with information.

Fritz was member number 3 of the NAV and Life Member No 2. He joined the Numismatic Society of Victoria in 1914, the foundation year, just 6 months after it was founded and was elected to the Council of the NSV in 1916.

He was a contemporary of the famous Victorian collectors of that period – Dr Arthur Andrews, President of the NSV, Anthony, Gordner<sup>9</sup>, Spry, Whellams, Le Soeuf, Chitty, Kenyon and many many more.

An expert in many branches of Numismatics and heraldry Fritz was for a time in charge of the coin collection at the Science Museum and also carried on business as a dealer for a period.

We are all poorer for his passing, but richer for having known him.

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<sup>9</sup> Gordner should probably read either Gardiner or Gartner

# NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Founded 1946

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## PAST PRESIDENTS

Rev. F. C. BREMER, E.D.	1946 - 1948
W. E. CURRAN, E.D., F.R.N.S.	1948 - 1950
N. W. ADAMS	1950 - 1953
R. W. FARMAN	1953 - 1955
E. KENNEDY	1955 - 1957
J. GARTNER	1957 - 1958
H. P. HIGSON	1958 - 1960
E. PHILPOTTS	1960 - 1962
W. E. CURRAN, E.D., F.R.N.S.	1962 - 1964
R. T. N. JEWELL, F.R.N.S.	1964 - 1965
R. G. STEWART	1965 - 1967
P. SIMON, F.R.N.S.	1968 - 1969
F. H. HEARD	1970 - 1972
W. E. PURNELL	1973 - 1974
H. J. PRANGE	1975 - 1976
P. J. DOWNIE	1977 - 1978
R. L. HENDERSON, F.R.N.S.	1979 - 1980
H. J. PRANGE	1981 - 1982
L. T. PEPPERELL	1983 - 1984
J. FARINGDON-DAVIS	1985 - 1986
G. FARINGDON-DAVIS	1987 - 1988
H. J. PRANGE	1989 - 1990
Dr. J. M. CHAPMAN, F.R.N.S.	1991 - 1992
P. SHIELDS	1993 - 1994
T. DAVIES	1995 - 1996
J. O'RILEY	1997 - 1999

# NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

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## OBJECTS:

- To encourage the study of Numismatics in all its branches
- To represent generally the views and interests of all Numismatists
- To provide education in the field of Numismatics
- To encourage sound and methodical collecting practice

## ACTIVITIES:

- Discussion at monthly meetings
- Reading of papers
- Assisting members in the study and acquisition of numismatic specimens
- An annual publication containing articles of interest to all Numismatists
- A quarterly Newsletter
- Stimulating research into the currency of Australia

Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at 7:45 pm

in the

**Celtic Club,**

Corner of Queen and Latrobe Streets, Melbourne