

AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST



2006

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

Founded 1946

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1998	P SHIELDS
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2003	P HAMILTON
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2006	J HOPE

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P.O. Box 615D, G.P.O. Melbourne

AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST 2006

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Cover: *Volunteer’s Medal for XVIII Commonwealth Games*

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EDITORIAL

In 1914, a group of Victorian numismatists formed the Numismatic Society of Victoria (NSV). After initial success, it fell on hard times (due mainly to internal disagreements) and in 1931 it affiliated with the Historical Society of Victoria.¹ Following moves initiated by James Hunt Deacon after the end of World War II, the Numismatic Association of Victoria (NAV) was formed. Although it saw itself as the successor of the NSV, the decision was made to make a fresh start.

The interest in numismatics at time was sufficient for membership to be well in excess of 100 before the end of the second year. The increased interest in Australia's coinage that came about with the impending change to decimal currency in the mid 1960s saw a dramatic increase in the membership of the NAV, as well as the founding of other numismatic societies. A "short" history of the NAV is included in this issue.

While there have been boom times, there have also been times of disagreement between members; these disagreements have usually been worked through and the NAV has recovered.

In the 60 years since, many people have been involved in the NAV:

- over 1100 people have been members
- 25 people have been President
- 12 people have been Secretary
- 14 people have been Treasurer
- and many many others have also served on the Council and have assisted the running of the NAV in various ways.

We are currently in a period in which there still appears to be considerable interest in numismatics, but a smaller number of people seem interested in being members of a society. The challenge facing not only the NAV, but all numismatic societies, is to interest more collectors of numismatic items in becoming members of a numismatic society; we also need to entice younger people to become members.

¹ See "A History of the Numismatic Society of Victoria", reprinted in the *Australian Numismatist*, 2004, pp 3-7

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In this issue, as well as some articles concerning the formation of the NAV, and the events leading up to this, I have reprinted two articles written by Peter Wall who died in late 2006. As Peter wrote on a wide variety of numismatic subjects, choosing one paper was extremely difficult; thus I chose two papers – one on ancient coins and one on Australian coins.

It is interesting to read Peter's plea in the Australian paper for more decimal commemoratives. At the time he wrote this in 1972, there had only been one decimal commemorative and numismatists, as well as the numismatic press, were clambering for more. With the plethora of decimal commemoratives that have been issued in 40 years of decimal currency, one now wonders how much is too much!

With these historical articles, there are less new numismatic articles with this issue. I hope that the 2007 will see more numismatic articles, but this is only possible if members write articles for publishing.

Happy reading.



THE FINAL STAGES OF THE NS OF V

By James Hunt Deacon, NAV #12¹

The foundation of the Numismatic Association of Victoria terminated the Numismatic Society of Victoria. The existing minute books of the former Society end at Feb. 1929 but the Society continued in a rather haphazard fashion until July 1931, when at the Annual Meeting of the Historical Society of Victoria its affiliation was announced.

Strangely enough during the moribund state of the Numismatic Society of Victoria from 1931-1946 little interest in the Society was taken by numismatists in Victoria, and most of the moves for reviving numismatic life there came from outside. Without recourse to private letters between the writer and several members and ex-members of the Society, as well as to other numismatists in Australia a complete history of the re-opening of numismatic study in Victoria cannot be made.

However some indication of what happened can be given. Way back in 1938, when the writer was approaching numismatists regarding the establishment of the Association of Australian Numismatists, many collectors in Victoria were also sounded regarding their support in the re-opening of the Society there. The majority were definitely interested but for various reasons no one seemed keen enough to take the initiative.

Letters from the writer to Messrs Anthoney, Farman, Kenyon, Marcollo, Schafer and Turnbull, to name a few of the more prominent gentlemen, were sent from 1938 onwards.

Draft circulars, list of names of likely members, draft rules, draft history, draft Roll of Membership, and offers of donations, all towards the revival of the Society, were made.

However as keen as some of the collectors were there were insurmountable difficulties, and it became obvious that disaffiliation would have to be secured before any progress could be made.

It was here that the Association of Australian Numismatists played its part in Victorian affairs. Discussions were commenced in January 1944 and

¹ Written in the Minute Book of the Numismatic Society of Victoria and dated 17/11/1947

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promised support was received should the Numismatic Society become independent. A request (dated 16/2/1944 - the 30th anniversary of the Preliminary Meeting) which had the approval of the President and Victorian Representatives on the Executive Council, was forwarded by the writer (as General Secretary of the Association) to the Council of the Historical Society of Victoria, for disaffiliation on the understanding that the Association would assume control of the Society until re-opening could be effected. The request was printed on 24/3/1944 (the 30th anniversary of the closing of the Foundation Roll), and a Provisional Committee was appointed by the Association from those who had indicated support. This comprised of R W Farnam (as President), A R Turnbull (as Hon Sec Treasurer), R Marcollo, and the writer (ex-officio). Later Mr Turnbull resigned and was instructed to hand over to Mr F H Schafer.

Feeling that perhaps Federal Control might hamper any movement towards re-opening of the Society, the writer (as General Secretary of the Association) placed the control into the hands of the President (R W Farman) in September 1945, and resigned from the Committee.

Mr Farman issued a Circular a month later, and ultimately the work of the President found fruit in the foundation of the Numismatic Association of Victoria.

Members added to Roll whilst the Association of Australian Numismatists assumed control:

Deacon, J. Hunt (re-joined)

Farman, R.W.

Marcollo, R.

Hagley, S.V.

Harrison, A.W.

Turnbull, A.R.

Weaver, C.J.V.



EARLY NAV MINUTES

Minutes of the 1st General Meeting of the Numismatic Association of Victoria held in Room 10 at the Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street, Melbourne on Friday May 17th 1946.

Present: 30

Mrs V. Thomas, Miss D. Collier, Messrs Ashby (Kyneton), Marcollo (Bendigo), Church, Higson, Menzel, Menzel Jnr, Freeman (Tasmania), Freeman Jnr (Tasmania), Wicks, Curran Senr, Wodak, Schiller, Luck, Schafer, Officer (Geelong), Saunders, Taylor (Kyabram), Flinn, Simpson, Young, Pignolet, Loxton, Dawson, Webster, Warren, Bremer and Farman.

Visitor: Miss Arnold.

Apologies: Messrs Hayes, Turnbull, Kennedy, Dr. Russell.

Preliminary meeting: A preliminary meeting was held at which a draft constitution was submitted. Those present agreed to form a body and discuss a constitution clause by clause.

Constitution:

On motion of Messers Pignolet and Luck it was agreed to adopt the constitution as approved.

Officers: The chairman – Major F. Charles Bremer – then called for nominations for 1946-47.

The following were elected:

President - Major F. Charles Bremer

Vice Presidents - Lieut. W. E. Curran Senr., Mr. Raymond Marcollo.

Secretary - Mr. Ray W Farnam

Treasurer - Mr. Jack Warren

The following members were elected to the Executive Counsel:

Miss D. Collier, Mr. T. Ashby, Mr. F. T. Flinn.

Syllabus: The secretary asked for suggestions for the syllabus.

Meeting closed as 10.15 pm

F. Charles Bremer, Chairman

21/6/1946

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Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Executive Council or Committee of Management of the Numismatic Association of Victoria held at the home of Miss D Collier on Friday evening May 31st, 1946

Present:

Miss D Collier, Messrs Ashby, Curran, Flinn, Bremer, Farman;
The President (F. C. Bremer) in the chair.

Correspondence:

1. Apology was received from Mr C Marcollo and suggesting that meetings be held on Saturday evenings. It was resolved "That for the present no action be taken".
2. Letter from James Hunt Deacon asking for some authority to accept property of the Numismatic Society of Victoria. It was resolved "That the Secretary should interview Mr. Schafer – the only Victorian member of the NSV – with a view to accord to the request of the writer".

Syllabus:

The President asked for suggestions for a syllabus. The following program was adopted:

The Numismatic Association of Victoria Syllabus 1946-47

1946

July 19	Silver coinage of Spain and her colonies EXHIBITS Spanish Coins	Major F. Charles Bremer
August 16	History of British War Medals EXHIBITS Medals, Commemorative & Otherwise	Lieut. W. E. Curran Senr.
September 20	"From Barter to Coinage" EXHIBITS Paper Money	Mr. F. T. Flinn
October 18	Australian Medals EXHIBITS Your most treasured coin, and why	Padre E. E. Hayes
November 15	"Questions Please" (members are invited to submit questions on 18 th October) EXHIBITS Coins showing portraits other than Monarchs	
December 20	Social Evening - Coin Quiz, etc. etc. etc.	

EARLY NAV MINUTES

1947

January 17	“Items of Interest” EXHIBITS	Indian Native Coins	All members
February 21	Die Sinking, Coin and Medal Making EXHIBITS	Forgeries and Imitations	Stokes & Sons P/L.
March 21	Crown Pieces EXHIBITS	Your smallest coins	Mr. Thomas Ashby
April 18	“A Chat on Australian Tokens” EXHIBITS	Unidentified Coins	Mr. Raymond Marcollo
May 16	(Nomination of Officers) Curious Currency EXHIBITS	Classical Coins	Mr. F. Schafer.
June 20	Annual Meeting, Presidential Address, Election of Officers		

An informal discussion then took place in which the following topics were mentioned:

- (a) Corresponding Members in all states.
- (b) Affiliation with the American Numismatic Association, Royal and British Numismatic Societies, Canadian, South African and New Zealand Societies.
- (c) Exchange arrangements.
- (d) Members roll

The meeting closed at 10 pm.

F. Charles Bremer, President

20 Sept. 1946



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE NAV 1946 - 2006

By Ray Jewell, NAV 267 and Frank Robinson, NAV 713¹

The history of the Numismatic Association of Victoria for the period 1946 to 1970 is reprinted from *The Australian Numismatist* of May 1971² (for the 25th anniversary of the Numismatic Association of Victoria) to which I have made some minor corrections and modifications.

The history for the period 1971 to 2006 has mainly been extracted from the annual reports of the NAV as published in *The Australian Numismatist* each year.

1946-47

This was the foundation year. It was decided not to attempt the revival of the old Numismatic Society of Victoria but to start afresh. At the first meeting the Rev F Charles Bremer was elected President, Roy Farman Secretary and Jack Warren Treasurer. At the end of the first year membership stood at 90. In retrospect the enthusiasm of these early members was magnificent and serves as a wonderful example to members today. Although the first Exhibition was not to be held until the second year, the Exhibition Committee of Messrs Jenkin, Curran, and Flinn already had arrangements well under way. The first Balance Sheet showed a credit at the bank of £12.10.8.

1947-48

That early enthusiasm had not waned was soon obvious in that 21 nominations were received for the eight positions on the Council. Charles Bremer was re-elected as President. Membership increased by 47 while three members were lost, membership standing at 134 at the end of the year. The first Annual Exhibition, opened by Mr Reynolds, Deputy Master of the Melbourne Mint, proved a great success. During the year members paid a visit to Stokes and Sons where the process of manufacture of the service medals to be presented to troops was seen and explained.

¹ I have assumed that Ray Jewell wrote the first part of this history (ie up to 1970) as he was Editor of *The Australian Numismatist* in 1971 and no author is named for writing this history.

² Vol 25 No 4, pp 6-15

1948-49

W E (Bill) Curran was elected President. During this year average attendance at monthly meetings rose to 31, while membership stood at 158 financial members at the end of the third year. The Second Annual Exhibition was a great success being opened by Mr Russell Stokes. During the year the Association entertained Mr Harold Mattingly who was at that time the world's greatest living authority on Roman coins.

The first commemorative medallion was struck to mark the centenary of the issue of the first Victorian token in 1849. The standard of the Papers presented at the meetings was maintained. In April the foundation Treasurer, Jack Warren, died suddenly. A tireless worker for the NAV he had been credited with introducing 25% of the membership at that time. Finances had gradually improved and credit balance at the end of the year was £27. 19. 0.



Figure 1 – First NAV medallion commemorating the centenary of the issue of the first Victorian token in 1849

1949-50

W E Curran continued as President. The Association continued to advance. Paid membership rose to 168 while the average monthly attendance stood at a healthy 35. The Third Annual Exhibition was held in the National Gallery Lecture Hall and created considerable public interest. During these early years great emphasis was placed on the Library which was housed in the city offices of Messrs Stokes and Sons. Librarian, Harold Higson, was tireless in his efforts to see that available books were used to best advantage of members.

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1950-51

N W Adams was elected President and E (Ted) Kennedy Treasurer. The three councillors elected were Messrs Enscoe, Higson and Wicks, three names which are still well known to all of us today. Secretary Roy Farman relinquished his position to go abroad and W E Curran was appointed Secretary. Numismatically the year was good and the quality of papers read at meetings high. Once again a successful exhibition was held. Although 18 new members were added 21 were lost through resignation, default or death and at the close of the year membership stood at 165.

1951-52

N W Adams continued as President; Roy Farman took over as Secretary again in January. The highlight of the year was the production, with Andor Mezaros of the Jubilee medallion. Another Exhibition was staged and the quality of the coins shown, and the method of display, was of the highest standard. Membership showed a slight loss at 155.

1952-53

N W Adams continued as President. During this year representations were made to the Federal Government for the issue of a special Coronation coin, however, without success. Although membership dropped to 146 the financial position was sound with a balance of £110. 0. 0.

1953-54

Roy Farman was elected President. Two minute papers were introduced, about 10 members speaking on any numismatic subject for a few minutes. These short papers proved a great success. The Association produced a commemorative medallion for the Coronation while another medallion was planned to mark the centenary of the running of the first steam train in Australia in September, 1854.

Two mail tender sales were held but with only moderate results and the experience was not repeated. Membership stood at 138 and monthly attendance average at 28. During the year the Secretary, Henry P Moss, died suddenly and the position was taken over by W E Curran who also continued as Editor.

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1954-55

Roy Farman continued as President. The annual exhibition which had been dropped in 1953-54 was revived and a successful seven day exhibition was staged in the Murdock Gallery. The commemorative medallion for Australia's first steam train was issued but, contrary to previous experience, sales were very slow. Financial membership was 127.

1955-56

With the election of Ted Kennedy as President, Howard Jenkin took over as Treasurer and W E Curran remained as Secretary and Editor. Council members this year were Messrs Gartner, Higson and Jewell. The papers and exhibits continued to be of a high numismatic standard. Plans were made for the issue of a commemorative medallion for the Olympic Games to be held in Melbourne in 1956. Statistically all figures had shown a decline, membership stood at 101, attendance average 24, while the bank balance at the close of the year was £43.11. 0.

1956-57

Ted Kennedy continued as President. From August, Ray Jewell took over as Secretary. The Association issued the Olympic commemorative medallion which proved to be a great success. One of the senior members of the Association, Eric Wodak, was appointed Honorary Curator of the National Gallery collection. One of the guest speakers was Professor Hunt, Professor of Classical Studies at Melbourne University who spoke on "*The Development of Graeco Roman Civilization as Illustrated by Coinage*". This year saw some internal upheavals within the Association and for some time the future of NAV was in doubt. However by the close of the year the controversial matters had been resolved.

1957-58

John Gartner was elected President, David Moorhead Treasurer and W E Curran returned as Secretary. For a number of reasons the decision was reached to sell the Library. Harold Higson had been Librarian since formation but even his enthusiasm could not solve problems of storage, distribution, etc. During this year the Constitution was rewritten. Much time and effort was spent in strengthening the Association after the difficult period through which it had recently passed.

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1958-59

Harold Higson was elected President and Ted Kennedy again as Treasurer. Arrangements were completed to strike a medallion to commemorate the centenary of the Elizabeth Street Post Office³. During the year the Association's collection of coins and medals were sold by tender. The papers read during the year covered all aspects of numismatics and were of a high standard. Exhibits continued to be excellent.

1959-60

Harold Higson continued as President. The Post Office medallion was issued while plans were made for the issue of the Burke and Wills commemorative medallion. Membership rose to 115, an increase of 12 on the previous year while average attendance at the monthly meetings was 24. The financial position had improved with the sale of the library and coin collection and cash at bank was a very healthy £265. 0. 0.

1960-61

Ed Philpotts was elected President. This proved a successful year with membership and attendances gaining slightly. Papers, exhibits and the Journal continued to maintain a high standard.

1961-62

Ed Philpotts continued as President. Once again this was a year of steady growth and consolidation. During the year an English group was formed under the leadership of Harold Higson and this group met monthly at members' homes to discuss English coinage. A medallion was issued to commemorate 60 years of Australian administration of Papua. Mr E S Anthony died on 20 May. Mr Anthony was a most learned numismatist and a foundation member of the old Victorian Society⁴.

1962-63

W E Curran was elected to a further term as President after an absence of 12 years and Ted Kennedy took on the Secretary's position in addition to Treasurer. The Association year was changed to end in December rather

³ ie Melbourne GPO

⁴ Numismatic Society of Victoria; see *Australian Numismatist*, 2004, p4

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than June. An active Australian group was formed and met monthly, at the same time the English group was also active. At the end of the year Bill Curran withdrew from active participation in NAV activities after 17 years service to the Association.

1964

President was Ray Jewell. There were 20 nominations for the seven positions on the Council. Guest speakers included Mr Arthur Caldwell, MHR, Leader of the Federal Opposition, who spoke on the “*Order of St Gregory the Great*” and Mr Stuart Devlin, designer of the Australian decimal coins. The 150th Anniversary of the issue of the Holey Dollar was commemorated with the issue of a medallion⁵. A three day Exhibition was held in the Melbourne Town Hall, this exhibition being opened by Harold Holt, then Federal Treasurer. The NAV issued a souvenir medalet on this occasion. A printed Journal was adopted. Membership rose to 226 and average attendance to 92. Bank balance was a healthy £686. 3. 1.

1965

Ray Jewell resigned as President early in the year and Ron Stewart was appointed President⁶. Our first Anzac medallion was issued to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Gallipoli. A guest speaker was Mr Cole-Turnley, a descendent of E W Coles who spoke on the life and times of E W Coles. Due to the large attendances at meetings, it was decided to have two meetings every month (except January); the first of these was held on Wednesday 3 March with the small attendance of 41. (The Friday meeting in February had attracted 77 members and 44 visitors!) Membership rose to 269.

1966

The great changeover to decimal currency occurred on Monday 14 February. Ron Stewart continued as President and Ray Griffiths was appointed Secretary, a position he occupied until 1972. Guest speakers

⁵ Although dated 1813, the holey dollars were not issued until early 1814 (see Andrews, *Australasian Tokens and Coins*, 1921, p116; also Hanley and James, *Collecting Australian Coins*, 1966, p43)

⁶ At that time, the NAV Constitution barred dealers from being office bearers. Ray Jewell had sold his collection and joined Max Stern & Co and was thus ineligible to continue as President.

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were members of the staff of K G Luke, Miss Judy Pollock of Commonwealth Games fame, Mr Bert Deacon Brownlow Medallist, and Mr Andor Mezaros the world famed sculptor and medallist. Official visits were made to the Hamilton, Geelong, Morwell, and Melbourne Numismatic Societies. The Treasurer, Edward Kennedy, passed away on 4 June, and a month later Vice President Bill Pethard passed away. Ray Griffiths was appointed Treasurer for the remainder of the year.

1967

Ron Stewart continued as President and Alan Collis was elected as Treasurer. The NAV launched its explorer series of medallions, the first to be issued honoured Captain James Cook. The Max Stern Trophy, an annual award for the outstanding paper, was introduced. Membership rose to 302.

1968

Paul Simon was elected President and Ray Griffiths was again Secretary / Treasurer. An official visit was made to the Australian Numismatic Society in Sydney, some 20 members making the trip. The first Association Dinner was held at the Hotel Cecil. Guest speakers were Mr L Eaton who spoke on the Judean Desert Rock Fortress, Massada, and Colonel A G Puttock, Vice President of the Victorian Heraldry Society. The second medallion in the explorer series, commemorating George Bass, was issued. The death occurred in Adelaide of James Hunt Deacon, one of all time great Australian numismatists. Membership was 247.

1969

Paul Simon continued as President and Alan Collis returned as Treasurer. The Association Dinner became an annual affair. Guest speakers were Dame Mabel Brooks who spoke on "*Napoleon - The Man*", this talk being given on the 200th anniversary of Napoleon's birth; Dr Murray Verso spoke on Cook's Voyages while Mr B Videon spoke on "*Air Force Insignia*". The third of the Explorer medallions, the John Oxley medallion, was issued. A medallion, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the first flight from England to Australia, by Ross and Keith Smith, was issued. Past President W E Curran died in Western Australia. Membership stood at 235.

1970

Frank Heard was elected President. Guest speakers were Dr Colin Pearson who spoke on “*Restoration of Cook's Cannon*”, and Mr Jim Henderson, Controller of the Royal Australian Mint who spoke on the Mint at Canberra. The fourth of the Explorer medallions, the Charles Sturt was issued; the intention had been that the fourth one of this series would be Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth, but it was financially unviable. Advertising was introduced into the *Australian Numismatist*. Membership stood at 230.

1971

Frank Heard continued as President. The 25th anniversary was celebrated with the issue of a medallion, a dinner (guest speaker was past President John Gartner) and a barbeque at the President's rural property. While the silver anniversary medallion was underwritten by three of the dealer members (and one die was an historic die whose use was provided free), Council was concerned that there were still stocks of the previous three medallions still on hand. The membership still included 17 Foundation members.



Figure 2 –NAV medallion commemorating the silver anniversary of the NAV in 1971

1972

Frank Heard continued as President. Ray Griffiths tendered his resignation as Secretary in October after suffering a stroke. Alan Collis retired as Treasurer at the end of the year. Ray Jewell relinquished his position as editor of *The Australian Numismatist* during the year and was replaced by Peter Wall. The mid-week meeting was changed from the first Wednesday to the first Tuesday of the month and was moved from the Theatrette to the smaller Conference Room with a less formal atmosphere. Membership stood at 222.

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1973

This year saw some new faces at the helm of the NAV: Bill Purnell as President, Frank Robinson as Secretary, and Tom Howell as Treasurer. A decision was taken during the year to discontinue the “Explorer” medallion series due to poor sales and the NAV still holding stocks of these, and other, medallions. In June, Max Stern & Co staged, in the name of the NAV, a numismatic exhibition in the newly opened Melbourne office of the CBC Bank. This exhibition featured, with an emphasis on Australiana, rarely seen numismatic material. The average attendance at meetings was 30 (Tuesday) and 37 (Friday).

1974

Bill Purnell continued as President; with Frank Robinson’s resignation from the Council, there was no Secretary. During the year, our first President, “Padre” F C Bremer, died aged 87. Two guest speakers during the year were Michael Mezaros (who spoke on his father Andor and his medals and medallions) and Peter Morriss of the Note Issue Department of the Reserve Bank. There were some new faces on Council, including Betty Turvey our first female Councillor for many years⁷.

1975

Hans Prange was elected President and Ray Griffiths returned to Council as Secretary. Fritz Schafer, our last link with the Numismatic Society of Victoria, died in December. One of the highlights of the year was a visit to the Note Printing Branch of the Reserve Bank in Fitzroy. At the Christmas meeting, members were asked to display and give a short talk on their other collecting hobbies and this was deemed to be a success.

1976

Hans Prange continued as President and Ken Downie was appointed as Secretary. We were saddened by the death in March of Ray Griffiths who had served the NAV as Secretary for many years. Two significant numismatic events during the year were the appointment of NAV member John Sharples as Curator (Numismatist) of the State’s numismatic collection, and the announcement by member Jessica Simon of an award to be available to numismatists throughout Australia in honour of her late

⁷ The first NAV Council in 1946-47 included Miss Dorothea Collier

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husband, Paul Simon. Membership stood at 275 with 20 new members elected during the year. Average attendance at the 22 meetings was 33.

1977

Phil Downie was elected President and Ken Downie continued as Secretary. The most important event for the NAV was the celebration of our 500th meeting on 5 April which was organised by Ray Jewell with assistance from Betty Turvey and “show bags” prepared by Terry Pepperell (who had yet to join the NAV). A medallion was struck for this event with the other side also commemorating the silver anniversary of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The Council also decided to strike a lapel badge to honour those who had been members for 15 consecutive years with the first badges being presented at the Christmas meeting. Terry Pepperell designed the badge and Hans Ferdinand engraved the die and struck the badges from silver (99% pure) using ancient coining methods.



Figure 3 –NAV medallion commemorating the 500th meeting of the NAV in 1977

1978

Phil Downie continued as President and Hans Ferdinand took over as Treasurer. This year saw the opening of both the Royal Melbourne Mint coin display at the Science Museum in Melbourne and the Gold Museum at Ballarat. In the latter half of the year, Peter Wall was succeeded by Len Henderson as temporary editor of the *Australian Numismatist* which had changed from monthly to bimonthly publication at the start of the year. Membership fell by 32 to 214 despite 12 new members (including three Juniors).

1979



*Figure 4 – NAV Supper Token
(cardboard)*

Len Henderson was elected President and Hans Prange took over as Treasurer. A weekend trip was made to Tasmania as a fraternal visit to collectors there. John Sharples took over as editor. A medal, in the form of a plaque, was issued to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of Captain Cook. As we had been in the habit of members making a donation for our supper, on Betty Turvey's suggestion, Terry Pepperell produced a cardboard "Supper Token".

1980

Len Henderson continued as President and the position of Secretary was vacant. A medallion was issued to commemorate the centenary of the International Exhibition held in Melbourne in 1880. The syllabus for one meeting was provided by speakers from Wormalds Security who talked about, and displayed, various security systems. At a Special General Meeting, the decision was taken to join the Victorian Council of Numismatic Societies (VCNS) and to maintain two meetings per month. The Annual Dinner was cancelled and the awards were presented at a General Meeting.

1981

Hans Prange was elected President (after a four year break), John Tarrant elected Treasurer, and Gillian Faringdon-Davis was appointed Secretary. Our publications changed with the decision to print a quarterly Newsletter with news, forward syllabus, reports of meetings, etc and a twice yearly Journal (40 pages per issue), in June and December, containing only numismatic articles; editors were Gillian Faringdon-Davis (Newsletter) and John Sharples (Journal). With the death of two members (Robert Kaldor and Laurie Vanstone), Council decided to mark the death of a member by presenting a book to the library dealing with the member's principal collecting interests. A formal method of judging papers for the Max Stern Trophy was introduced. A successful giant auction (with over 800 lots) was

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held at the President's business premises in Richmond. A Royal Marriage (Charles and Diana) medallion was issued.

1982

Hans Prange continued as President, and Tom Howell returned as Treasurer. The highlight of the year was probably the visit of Mr R A G Carson, Keeper of the Coins at the British Museum who showed slides of the rare coins held at the Museum. The NAV took part in its first VCNS Convention and won second place in the club display. An annual dinner was again held. The Journal changed from twice yearly to an annual publication. The Christmas meeting took the form of a daytime excursion to Williamstown.

1983

Terry Pepperell was elected President. One of the highlights of the year was the Coin Fair in July organised by Spinks at which the NAV had an information stand. John Faringdon-Davis took over as editor of the Journal which was revived by being taken out of the hands of the previous printer. It was intended to commemorate *Australia II* winning the America's Cup by issuing a medallion; however we would have had to provide an enormous amount of paperwork to a franchising company that it was considered not worth the trouble!

1984

Terry Pepperell continued as President. The Secretary's Annual Report stated "1984 has been a year of holding steady for the NAV; there has been nothing dramatic to report, either good or bad". However there was an extra special issue of the Journal which was a monograph on "*Non-Circulating Checks of Victoria*". A return was made to monthly auctions (at the Friday meeting) after several years with just one or two big auctions per year. A Sesquicentenary Project to mark the 150th anniversary of Victoria in three ways was proposed: to publish a book on various aspects of numismatic history in Victoria, at least one medallion on a suitable historical subject, and exhibitions. After a series of preliminary meetings, the Numismatic Association of Australia (NAA) was formed.

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1985

John Faringdon-Davis was elected President, Len Henderson took over as Secretary, and Gillian Faringdon-Davis took over as editor of the Journal. Stan Church, Foundation member No 19 who died in January, left a bequest for an award. After 20 years of twice monthly meetings, a return was made to one meeting per month. This year was one of increased contact with other clubs and organisations; members of other clubs visited us and a number of our members visited other clubs. There was also an outing to the Note Printing Branch at Craigieburn. A medallion commemorating Victoria's sesquicentenary was issued late in the year. The first NAA Journal was issued.

1986

John Faringdon-Davis continued as President. During October, ten members travelled to Adelaide to visit the Numismatic Society of South Australia on the occasion of that State's sesquicentenary. A medallion was issued to commemorate Halley's Comet, which was visible during the year. One of our speakers was member Tom Pistrucci, great-grandson of Benedetto Pistrucci, who spoke on his trip to England researching his famous ancestor. The size of the annual Journal was increased to 72 pages.

1987

Gillian Faringdon-Davis was elected President and Hans Prange took over as Treasurer. Len Henderson took over editorship of the Newsletter from Gillian Faringdon-Davis. We received visits from collectors in every State and official visits were made to the Coin Clubs in Bendigo and Geelong. There was an unsuccessful attempt by the NAV to start a Coin Club in Essendon.

1988

Gillian Faringdon-Davis continued as President and Peter Wall took over as Acting Secretary. A number of members attended the Sydney Coin Fair and Bicentenary Exhibition in March. The NAV also celebrated the bicentenary with the issue of an oval-shaped medallion, again designed by Terry Pepperell, and an extra "Special Bicentenary Issue" of our Journal, which was devoted entirely to articles on Australian currency and medals. Two NAV members issued their own medallions – John Chapman issued

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one based on the design of the “Charlotte” medal and Ian Armstrong issued one to mark him being awarded “Victorian of the Year”. Membership stood at 159, a decline of 11 members from the previous year.

1989

Hans Prange was again elected President, this time after a six year break; in the absence of a Treasurer, Hans Prange also acted in this position. In the absence of a Secretary, Peter Wall and Len Henderson filled in and Don Wicks acted as Minute Secretary at Council Meetings. The year was described as “an average one with just average achievements”. Tender sales were now held about eight times a year. Membership stood at 152, which was seven down on the previous year.

1990

Hans Prange continued as President and Trevor Davies was elected as Treasurer. In the absence of a Secretary, four members filled in. Commencing with the January meeting, the location of our meetings changed from the Science Museum (our home for 43 years) to the State Government Offices in Treasury Place. This was a much better year with an almost complete Council, the successful staging of the VCNS Convention and the striking of our second Anzac medallion, this time commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings.

1991

John Chapman was elected President and George Ridley was appointed Secretary. Achievements for the year included a rationalisation of NAV activities, sorting out our membership, simplification of our financial affairs, retrieval of archives and property, well on the way to incorporation, closer involvement with the NAA, changed auction sequence, introducing a “Swap / Sell / Barter” night, a group attending the NAA Hobart Coin Fair, and presentation of our awards at the Annual General Meeting. We were saddened by the deaths of three of our members - John Faringdon-Davis, Tibor Bedohazy, and Paul Derwent. Membership stood at 144 and the average attendance at meetings during the year was 28.

1992

John Chapman continued as President, and Terry Pepperell took over as editor of the Journal. This was a year of consolidation of several initiatives

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from 1991. Don Wicks, an “Elder Statesman” (and Foundation Member) of the NAV retired as a Councillor; he not only kept Council Minutes, but was a source of information on the history of the NAV. A highlight of the year was the “Williamstown Walkabout”. Again, we were saddened by the deaths of several members, including Howard Jenkin (Foundation Member 44), and Past-President Ray Jewell (member 267). Ray was very highly respected in numismatics, and was the leading expert on Australian numismatics.

1993

Pat Shields was elected President. In December, a move was made from Treasury Place to the Australian Postal Institute (API) rooms in Lonsdale Street. Membership stood at 141 and the average attendance at meetings during the year was 31.

1994

Pat Shields continued as President. A minor move to a larger room in the API building was made – this made meetings far more comfortable. A recipient of the 15 year continuous membership award was Terry Pepperell, who had designed the badge before he joined the NAV! A new award this year was a badge for 25 years continuous membership; nearly 40 members were eligible for it first up. Member Tom Pistrucci, great-grandson and the last descendant of Benedetto Pistrucci (of St George and dragon fame), died in December.

1995

Trevor Davies was elected President and Beverley Davies was elected Treasurer; George Ridley retired as Secretary at the end of the year. At a Special General Meeting, the membership passed a motion “That we do not proceed with Incorporation”; we had been investigating this possibility for eight years. Members of the NAV and the Numismatic Society of South Australia (NSSA) met in Warrnambool over the Australia Day weekend to view the “Mary Rose Exhibition” and attend a joint numismatic seminar.

1996

Trevor Davies continued as President, Peter Hamilton was elected Treasurer and in the absence of a Secretary, Frank Robinson was Minute Secretary for the General Meetings, Len Henderson performed this role at

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Council Meetings, and Pat Shields acted as Correspondence Secretary. Marc Béoutis took over as editor of the Journal which this year was 117 pages! The highlight of the year was our 50th anniversary meeting in May. A number of our remaining earlier members were interviewed as part of the meeting. Our two remaining Foundation Members, Ian Young (No 17) and Don Wicks (No 26) were present and received the first awards of 50 year continuous membership badges. A medallion was also struck to commemorate this milestone. A number of issues were raised during the year, some of which were still unresolved at the end of year.



Figure 5 –NAV medallion commemorating the golden anniversary of the NAV in 1996

1997

John O’Riley was elected President. George Ridley returned as Secretary, but resigned in December. In May we moved yet again, this time to the Celtic Club (cnr of Queen and La Trobe Streets). The format of the Newsletter was changed from A4 to A5 which gave it a much more professional look. A Special General Meeting was held in November at which revamped Rules of our Constitution were passed. Membership, at 99, fell below 100 for the first time since the Foundation year. Average meeting attendance was 23.

1998

John O’Riley continued as President and new member Bill Xynos took on the job of Secretary. Marc Béoutis and Bill Xynos took over as joint editors of the Newsletter. The death occurred in February of Past President, and founder of *Australian Coin Review*, John Gartner. After an ongoing feud between two members boiled over at the AGM, a certain amount of tension remained during the year. Membership fell to 95; however average meeting attendance remained at 23.

1999

John O'Riley continued as President and Peter Hamilton took over as editor of the Newsletter. The third NAV-NSSA Symposium was held in Bendigo in July. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the issue of Australia's first copper token by Annand, Smith & Co, a box medallion was struck which contained 21 card discs with information on each of the Victorian token issuers. At the ANDA Fair in October, we organised the first NAV-ANDA Competitive Display. During the year, Don Wicks, a Foundation member died; the only Foundation member left is Ian Young. With six new members, membership returned to 100.



Figure 6 –NAV box medallion commemorating the sesquicentenary of the issue of the first Victorian token in 1849 with two of the 21 card discs

2000

Frank Robinson was elected President and Bill Xynos took over as editor of the Journal. The dispute mentioned earlier flared again at the AGM and, after a full debate, it subsided. Although still at the Celtic Club, we were

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obliged to change our meeting room to the basement which was smaller, but we were able to use the more spacious second floor room for special occasions. One such occasion was the visit of Paul Holland from the USA who was presented with the NAA's "Ray Jewell Memorial Award" at a special NAV meeting. Due to insufficient orders, we were forced to cancel the proposed striking of a medallion to commemorate the Sydney Olympic Games.

2001

Frank Robinson continued as President and also took over as editor of the Journal. Peter Hamilton brightened up the Newsletter, including colour on the cover. In June, a number of our members travelled to Adelaide for the fourth biennial NAV-NSSA Symposium (the first of these to be held in South Australia. For the second year running, we were forced to cancel the striking of a medallion – this one was intended to commemorate both the centenary of federation and the sesquicentenary of Victoria's separation from New South Wales. We continued our presence at both the ANDA and NAA Coin Fairs. A 40 Year Continuous Membership badge had been produced several years ago, but was only officially introduced this year. Ross Wilkinson, a relatively new member who joined in 1999, won the Max Stern Trophy with his first full length paper!

2002

Frank Robinson continued as President. Consideration was given to moving our meeting venue to the InfoZone of Melbourne Museum; however after announcing the change, the proposal fell through over the issue of public liability insurance. Work was commenced on a complete rewrite of our Constitution. While we continued our presence at the ANDA Coin Fair, the NAA cancelled its Coin Fair in July. It was pleasing that the two members who had been involved in a feud over recent years were reconciled at the Christmas meeting.

2003

Terry Pepperell was elected President; as the position of Secretary was vacant, Terry Pepperell also attempted to undertake this job as well. The fifth biennial NAV-NSSA Symposium was held in Melbourne and was convened by Len Henderson. Bill Xynos continued his valuable work in organising our involvement at the ANDA Coin Fair.

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2004

Terry Pepperell continued as President and Bill Xynos returned as Secretary (although he was overseas for a significant part of the year). We were saddened by the death in September of Jean Harwood, member No 240, who had been a member for 52 years. This was a year of consolidation.

2005

Terry Pepperell continued as President. The sixth biennial NAV-NSSA Symposium was held in Adelaide with two of our members attending. Nik Sharplin, another new member (joined in 2004), won the Max Stern Trophy. Our usual regular events continued, including the ANDA Coin Fair, and visiting other numismatic societies. After serving on the Council almost continuously since 1981 (missing only 1997 & 1998), Terry Pepperell decided that it was time to retire from an executive role.

2006

Peter Hamilton was elected President and, in the absence of a Treasurer, he continued in this role as well. The highlight of the year was the 60th anniversary of the NAV. Compared to some of our other anniversaries, this one was a somewhat low key affair. However we issued a medallion (which, significantly, featured a diamond) and a special numbered certificate for all current members and also those visitors present at the anniversary meeting. Council decided to reduce its number of meetings from eleven to six, but finished up having seven meetings. Membership stood at 88 (compared to 90 in 1946-47), and the average meeting attendance during the year was 17. After 60 years, we still have one Foundation Member – Ian Young (No 17).



Figure 7 –NAV medallion commemorating the diamond anniversary of the NAV in 2006

THE FUTURE

What does the future hold for the NAV, and other Numismatic Societies, as well as the hobby in general? Unfortunately I don't have a crystal ball, but I feel that there is still interest. We need to attract younger people to the hobby, and make use of 21st century methods. One obvious method is the internet and Council is hoping to have a website up and running during 2007.

We can only guess (wildly) at what the NAV will be like come our centenary in 2046 (I am confident the NAV will continue and still be active then), but the next generations will need to be strongly involved.



AN INTRODUCTION TO BYZANTINE BRONZE COINAGE

By Peter B Wall, NAV 323¹

(This paper, presented at the meeting on Friday, April 18, 1986, is dedicated to the remembrance of two past friends of mine in the Numismatic Association of Victoria: the late J. L. (Len) Bairstow, and the late Robert Kaldor, fellow Byzantinist.)

Today the Byzantine or Eastern Roman Empire is clearly seen as a bridge between the classical civilisations of antiquity and the mediaeval world, having a truly unique culture centred on the Christian religion.

Essentially a continuation of the late Roman coinage at the start (circa A.D. 498) when introduced by the Emperor Anastasius I, Byzantine coins soon develop a style of their own, and the process of evolution continues in an unbroken sequence spanning almost a thousand years. Whereas the gold coinage was struck largely to "buy peace" and to circulate among the rich and privileged, the working classes depended on the bronze coinage.

The Emperor Anastasius I ruled from A.D. 491 to A.D. 518. One of his first official acts was a reform of the coinage.

The SOLIDUS, the standard gold coinage unit, was divided into 6000 parts called NUMMIA (from the Latin word for "a coin"). ("NOMISMA", from whence derives "NUMISMATIC", is the Greek word for "a coin"). Bronze coins were struck in multiples of the NUMMIA.

During the reign of Anastasius I and his successor Justin I, only four bronze (or copper) denominations were issued, namely the 40, 20, 10 and 5 NUMMI. The highest denomination was the 40 NUMMI or "FOLLIS" (from the Latin word for "a money bag" which late in the third century A.D. was applied to an actual coin).

So initially there was the FOLLIS, HALF FOLLIS, DECANUMMIUM and PENTANUMMIUM whose reverses were distinguished by the Greek

¹ This paper was originally published in the *Australian Numismatist*, 1986, pp 3-9. It is republished here as a tribute to Peter who died during 2006.

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capital letter M, K, I, or E (Greek style) which stood for the Greek numerals 40, 20, 10 or 5 respectively. These four denominations can perhaps be equated to the copper penny, halfpenny, farthing and half-farthing 1838-1860, of Queen Victoria's reign!

Never before had an official issue of coins been given such prominent and easily recognisable marks of denomination.

Justinian I succeeded his uncle as Emperor on 1st August, A.D. 527, ushering in a Golden Age of Byzantine architecture and art. In April 538, Justinian changed the traditional bust R. to a facing bust on the obverse of his bronze coins, reflecting the portrait style newly adopted by Byzantine mosaic artists. At the same time he introduced dating of his coins by regnal on the reverse side, starting with the year XII (for 12) and continuing until year XXX IIIϥ (for 39), the last year of his reign in A.D. 565. Under Justinian I the Follis gained in weight by some 4 grammes in the first half of the reign, but after the 540's its weight began to decline.

It was during Justinian's reign that the range of bronze denominations was greatly increased. (See chart on next page.)

With the exception of the 30 Nummi, all the possible collectable denominations were minted, including the odd 33 Nummi struck solely by the mint at Alexandria, only during this reign. The 16 Nummi struck only at the Thessalonica mint is unique to the reign of Justinian I. The use of Latin numerals XX, X and V instead of a Greek letter for the denominations, was introduced on three bronze values, namely the 20, 10 and 5 Nummi minted at Rome for Justinian I.

Justinian's reign of more than 38 years was a momentous one during which he greatly increased Byzantine territory and influence. Due to the destruction by fire at Constantinople of the church built by Constantine the Great, Emperor Justinian I was presented with the opportunity of building a new basilica worthy of the capital city of the Empire. Completed in A.D. 537, the great church of Santa Sophia (meaning "Holy Wisdom") remained the nerve centre that ruled the Orthodox Christian world for nine centuries. Now a museum, known as HAGIA SOPHIA, it is still a prominent landmark of modern Istanbul.

"Oh, Solomon, I have outdone thee!" Justinian is recorded to have exclaimed when he first viewed the completed edifice. Above one of the entrances is a mosaic (tenth century) depicting Constantine the Great with

his walled city and Justinian I with his basilica standing before the Virgin and Child.

In the church of San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy, built by Justinian I, there are contemporary mosaics depicting the Emperor and his wife, the Empress Theodora, both wearing the imperial robes and regalia like that seen more coarsely on certain bronze coins of the reign.

Early in the reign, the Syrian city of Antioch was almost destroyed by a great earthquake on November 29, A.D. 528, after which the city was renamed THEOUPOLIS, meaning "City of God". The bronze coinage issuing from the Antioch/Theoupolis mint records in abbreviated form the new name.

THE FULL RANGE OF BRONZE DENOMINATIONS AND THEIR VARIOUS MARKS OF VALUE :-		
40 NUMMI (FOLLIS)	=	M, m, or XXXX
33 NUMMI	=	ΛΓ
30 NUMMI	=	Λ, or XXX
20 NUMMI (HALF FOLLIS)	=	K, or XX
16 NUMMI	=	IS
12 NUMMI	=	IB
10 NUMMI (DECANUMMIUM)	=	I, or X
8 NUMMI	=	H
6 NUMMI	=	S
5 NUMMI (PENTANUMMIUM)	=	Ε, V, or U
4 NUMMI	=	Δ
3 NUMMI	=	Γ
2 NUMMI	=	B
NUMMUS	=	A
NOTE :- THE LOWER DENOMINATIONS SOON FELL VICTIM TO THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION.		

I move on now to the bronze coinage of Justinian's successors, but it could rightly be said that the reign of Justinian I was also a "golden age" for the Byzantine bronze coinage.

Emperor Justin II, nephew of Justinian, succeeded to the throne in November, 565, but he proved to be quite unequal to the formidable task of handling the numerous problems resulting from his great predecessor's over-ambitious policies. Justin II was fortunate that his wife, the Empress Sophia who is prominent on the bronze coinage, was to exercise considerable political influence throughout her husband's reign.

I have a Follis of this reign in my collection which depicts Justin II and Sophia seated facing on a double throne. It was minted at Constantinople in A.D. 571/2, shortly before the Emperor became mentally ill. I have another Follis minted 30 years later in A.D. 602/3 depicting the Emperor Phocas

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and his wife, the Empress Leontia, standing facing. This second coin has actually been overstruck on a Follis of the same date and mint as the Justin II and Sophia one described.

The reverses of these two coins show very clearly the different forms of the same letter used to denote the denomination on the Follis. The first has the block capital letter M, while the second uses the script form **𐀓** of the same Greek letter.

Interestingly, the Emperor Phocas hardly ever used the block capital form of the letter, preferring the script **𐀓** or XXXX on the reverse of the bronze Folles issuing from seven mints (namely Constantinople, Thessalonica, Nicomedia, Cyzicus, Theoupolis, Carthage and Ravenna) during his disastrous reign of eight years.

From examining the reverse of typical bronze coins of the reign of Emperor Phocas (see figure 1) there are usually five or six distinctive features we are able to discern. In the centre of the Follis we see XXXX giving the denomination (40 Nummi); above is ANNO (the Latin word for "in the year of"); at far right is II over II indicating regnal year 4 (so we can tell in this case that the coin was minted in A.D. 605/6); below the mark of value we see CON, an abbreviation for Constantinople where the coin was minted; this is followed by the Greek letter Γ (Gamma) indicating the third "officina", or third workshop at that mint. A large mint like the one at Constantinople had at this time up to five officinae or workshops producing bronze coins simultaneously. These were designated by the letters A, B, Γ, Δ or Ε.



Figure 1 – Follis (left) and 12 Nummi (right) of Phocas

A distinctive feature not included on this particular Follis of Phocas, is however to be seen on the 12 Nummi (a denomination produced only at the mint in Alexandria, Egypt). It is the cross symbolising the Christian State, inserted between the Greek letters IB (denoting 12.) The mint name is below.

On the obverse of Byzantine bronze coins of the period it is usual to see the facing bust of the Emperor with an imperial crown or diadem on his head, wearing the consular robes and LOROS (a richly embroidered long scarf). In the Emperor's right hand he holds a MAPPA (a linen handkerchief), symbol of his authority as a consul of the Roman Empire. In his left hand he holds an eagle-tipped sceptre. Some Emperors are shown holding a GLOBUS CRUCIGER (a golden globe or orb representing the world, with a cross added to the top), symbolising the Emperor's authority over the whole world as the representative of Jesus who held sway over it, or would eventually do so. A legend in Latin with some Greek letters, often incomplete and sometimes so blundered as to be meaningless, completes the obverse design.

There is a certain mystery about these bronze coins, quite apart from the fact that no mint records have survived from any period of Byzantine history.

Under the Emperor Phocas in the early 7th century, the empire quickly declined in territory and in power. This is reflected in the bronze coinage where we see a rapid reduction of weight due to devaluation and a cut-off in the supply of copper.

Progressively, earlier issues are overstruck, then even cut into portions to be re-struck. Some 30% of Phocas's Constantinople-minted Folles in the British Museum Catalogue were re-struck (overstruck), while 67% of those of Heraclius (reigned A.D. 610-641) had been produced in this way. After the Arab invasions of the 630's, most mints except Constantinople ceased to coin for the empire. All this happened within the reign of the Emperor Heraclius who had overthrown the tyrant Phocas. At this time the mint at Syracuse in Sicily resorted to countermarking any early heavy Folles it could find.

In the next reign, that of Emperor Constans II, grandson of Heraclius, even the products of the Constantinople mint are extremely crude. The fortunes of the empire gradually improve, but of the once extensive bronze coinage only the Follis manages to survive into the 9th century, though the distinctive M disappears from the reverse around the year 840. The famous "bun" penny of Queen Victoria was minted from 1860 to 1894 – 34 years; whereas the Byzantine M type Follis was minted from c. A.D. 498 to c. A.D. 838 - a total span of 340 years!

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Starting out as a peasant in Macedonia, then becoming a groom at the imperial court in Constantinople, the ambitious Basil I murdered the hapless young Emperor Michael III who had befriended him. Emperor Basil I (ruled 867 - 886) proved himself a most competent ruler, who became the founder of the greatest Byzantine imperial dynasty - the "Macedonian". The bronze coins of Basil I often show him seated on a throne with his favourite son, Constantine, or flanked by both his sons, Constantine and Leo. Constantine predeceased his father, who when he died in 886 following a hunting accident, was succeeded by Leo with whom Basil I had never been on good terms.

The bronze coins of Emperor Leo VI often show him enthroned, wearing a richly embroidered robe, and holding a LABARUM (a sacred banner or standard). On the reverse side is an inscription which, translated, reads: "Leo, by the grace of God, King of the Romans". There is a contemporary mosaic in the basilica of Santa Sophia which shows the Emperor Leo VI prostrate before the enthroned figure of Jesus Christ. It is useful for the Byzantinist to compare the throne in this mosaic with the throne depicted on a bronze coin of Leo VI.

Another fine mosaic in Santa Sophia depicts the younger brother of Leo VI, Alexander, who reigned one year. This mosaic gives us a good idea of the imperial robes worn by the emperors of this period who are shown in lesser detail on the humble bronze coinage.

At the tender age of eight years the young son of Leo VI succeeded his uncle Alexander in June, 913. As Emperor Constantine VII, he was, remarkably, able to hold on to the throne for 46 years, 5 months and 3 days in this Middle Byzantine period.

About twelve years after the death of Constantine VII an important numismatic development occurred with the introduction of the first bronze coins to bear the bust of Jesus Christ. This was the beginning of the well-known "Anonymous Bronze Coinage" which replaces Folles, bearing imperial portraits and names for almost a hundred years. The reverse types generally bear the inscription in Greek: translated, "Jesus Christ, King of Kings".

The obverse depicts the nimbate (wearing a halo) bust of Christ, facing, holding the gospels, with the legend EMMA NOVHA, "Immanuel", meaning "God is with us" (refer Matthew, Chapter 1, verse 23); in the field are the letters IC XC with a bar above each pair, the contracted form of

IHSUS XRISTUS, "Jesus Christ". I personally find a comparison between the bust of Christ on these bronze coins and the image on the controversial Shroud of Turin to be rather revealing for their apparent similarity.

A mosaic of Christ and the Holy Virgin contemporary with the "Anonymous Bronze Coinage" is to be found in the 11th century monastery church in Phocis, Greece, dedicated to Hosios Loukas, the holy hermit Luke.

Other reverse types of the "Anonymous" series show a cross in varied forms - a jewelled cross and the wording IC XC NIKA (meaning "May Jesus Christ conquer"); a Patriarchal cross - (✙); and the Latin cross with X at centre (*). Overstriking was extensive throughout the period of the Anonymous Bronze Coinage.

From the mid-11th century the bronze Follis reverts to types depicting the imperial portrait or figure, but then a new, smaller bronze denomination takes over.

This is the TETARTERON. Although not uncommon it usually is found in miserable condition, a reflection and probably a result of the vicissitudes of the embattled, shrunken empire.

To conclude this introduction to Byzantine bronze coinage it is necessary to look at the SCYPHATE or "cup-shaped" coins first appearing in the mid-11th century. The Emperor Alexius I Comnenus (reigned 1081 - 1118) reformed the monetary system in 1092. He issued a completely new series of SCYPHATE coins in gold, electrum and billon. However, the billon or base silver issues declined in silver content so rapidly that by the end of the 12th century they were nothing more than roughly executed bronze coins.

On the obverse, which is the convex side, we see a representation either of MATER THEOS, the "Mother of God", or of Jesus Christ, seated on a throne. The concave side - the reverse - depicts the Emperor being crowned by the Holy Virgin, both standing.

A pathetic assortment of small, flat bronze coins continued to be issued by the mint at Constantinople right up to the reign of the second last Byzantine Emperor, John VIII Palaeologus. But that was it; the exhausted empire ended when the Turks finally captured Constantinople in September, 1453. And so ends my resume of the Byzantine Bronze Coinage, a unique series which offers both the Byzantinist and the numismatist a very rewarding challenge.

BYZANTINE BRONZE COINAGE

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DUCATS TO DECIMALS

or, A brief account of Australia's coinage since 1788

By Peter Wall, NAV 323¹

When the First Fleet landed and established the first permanent settlement at Sydney Cove in 1788 the need for a form of money first occurred in Australia. The Aborigines had never known, or for that matter, never needed a uniform and convenient exchange medium which the Lydians of Asia Minor introduced in the 8th Century B.C., and the Greeks popularized.

So, until the white man arrived in New Holland barter had been sufficient. From 1788 until 1813 the only money circulating in the Colony was English and various foreign coins brought by the ships of the main trading nations. Dutch silver guilders (2/-²) and gold ducats (9/6³); Indian silver rupees (2/6⁴) and gold mohurs (£1-17-6⁵); Spanish silver 8 reales or “pieces-of-eight” (5/-⁶) and gold doubloons (£3-15- to £4-⁷); Portuguese gold “Johannas” (£4-⁸); Siamese gold Pagodas (8/-⁹), all circulated alongside the English gold Guineas, silver shillings and copper pennies (the first copper penny was issued in 1797), the latter being known as “cartwheels” as they weighed one ounce each. In the year 1800 Governor King issued a Proclamation stating the equivalent English values of these foreign coins. (See the equivalents in brackets above). An English shilling was fixed at 1/1¹⁰ and an English copper coin of one ounce, two pence.

¹ This paper was originally published in the *Australian Numismatist*, Vol 26, No 8, September 1972, pp5-10. It is republished here as a tribute to Peter who died during 2006. For the benefit of readers who are not familiar with our pre-decimal monetary system, I have added footnotes to give numerical monetary values (of the text) in words.

² 2 shillings

³ 9 shillings and 6 pence

⁴ 2 shillings and 6 pence

⁵ 1 pound 17 shillings and 6 pence

⁶ 5 shillings

⁷ 3 pounds 15 shillings to 4 pounds

⁸ 4 pounds

⁹ 8 shillings

¹⁰ 1 shilling and 1 penny

DUCATS TO DECIMALS



Figure 1 - Spanish American 8 reales (1799 Potosi mint)



Figure 2 - Great Britain 1 shilling (1787) and Netherlands 1 ducat (1733 Holland)



Figure 3 – Great Britain 1 penny (1797)

However, these coins did not remain in the Colony for any length of time as they were quickly taken out of the country by the foreign traders in payment for the much-needed goods the struggling Colony required. This, together with the limited and inadequate supply of English coin being sent here resulted in a continual shortage of coin particularly the minor denominations. The first attempt at keeping coins in the Colony was made in 1812 when Gov. Macquarie ordered that almost 40, 000 Spanish silver dollars (then an almost universal currency) have their centre portion removed and re-stamped with the value fifteen pence and dated 1813. The remaining “ring” portion was counter – stamped “Five Shillings New South Wales 1813”. He declared these coins illegal outside Australia. As the

original dollars cost about 5/-¹¹ each, a considerable profit was made from this venture. Today the few “Holey Dollars” that still exist are much prized by collectors.

In 1826 the Sterling system was finally adopted as Australia's standard currency. At the time there were many who favoured the Dollar, a legacy of the convenient Spanish Dollar and its parts. By 1827 English coins were the only ones circulating, but the supply was still insufficient.

Due to the continued acute shortage of pennies and halfpennies, Annand, Smith & Co., Family Drapers, of Melbourne took the initiative in 1849 and had made a supply of copper penny tokens to alleviate the shortage. Although illegal these tokens became popular and a large number of trades people (Drapers, General Merchants, Tea-Stores, Tobacconists, Pawnbrokers, Ironmongers, etc.) in all States caused token pennies and halfpennies to be issued. These tradesmen's tokens served their purpose, but soon after 1860 they became a nuisance and were declared illegal firstly in Victoria in 1863 and finally in Tasmania in 1876.



Figure 4 – Tokens: Annand, Smith & Co 1 penny (nd), Lewis Abrahams ½ penny 1855, Iredale & Co 1 penny

In 1860 bronze coins were first issued in England - these were smaller, lighter and harder than the copper minor denominations they replaced. Large supplies of this new coin were introduced into the States thus eliminating the need for tokens.

With the discovery of gold in Australia in the early 1850's and the resultant prosperity, a branch of the Royal Mint was opened at Sydney in 1855. This branch produced gold coins until it closed in 1926. The Melbourne branch of the Royal Mint opened in 1872, and a further branch, following the discovery of gold in Western Australia, was opened at Perth in 1899. These

¹¹ 5 shillings

DUCATS TO DECIMALS

branches produced half-sovereigns until 1918 and sovereigns until 1931 when the gold standard was abandoned.



Figure 5 – Sydney mint ½ sovereign (1865)

Practically all English silver and bronze coins and Australian minted gold coins circulated freely in Australia until 1931 when the Australian Pound was devalued.

It was not until 1910 (nine years after Federation) that Australia had its own distinctively Australian coinage when our four silver denominations were released. Australian pennies and halfpennies were first issued in 1911. However, it was not until 1916 that florins to threepences were minted in Australia, and not until 1919 that our own bronze coins were produced here. Every Australian penny and halfpenny dated 1916, 1917 & 1918 was minted in India at the Calcutta Mint! From 1910 to 1915 all Australian coins were minted in England. Australian coins have been minted at nine different mints - two in England, two in India, two in U.S.A., and three in Australia.



Figure 6 – Australia: 1 florin (1910), 1 penny (1911), 1 shilling (1953)

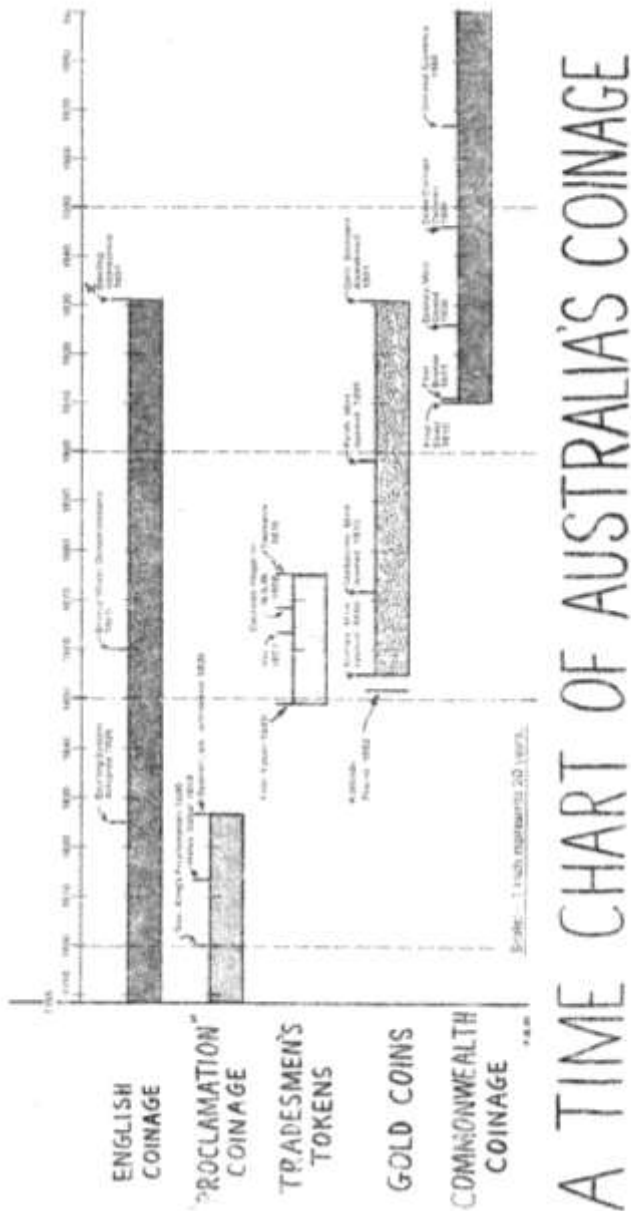


Figure 7 – Time Chart of Australia's Coinage (as drawn by Peter Wall in 1972); this chart was originally printed as a foolscap sheet, thus the scale shown here should be ignored

DUCATS TO DECIMALS

During the Second World War the bulk of Australia's silver coins were minted in the U.S.A. at the Denver and San Francisco Mints. These coins are distinguished by a small "D" or "S" mint-mark on the coins dated 1942, 1943 and 1944. Every Australian sixpence and threepence dated 1944 was minted at San Francisco. In 1942 and 1943 Australian pennies and halfpennies were issued by mints in Melbourne, Perth and Bombay (India).

Since 1910 over 360 different varieties of Australian coins have been issued. This includes the five-shilling pieces (crowns) dated 1937 and 1938, and the four commemorative florins - Canberra 1927; Victorian centenary 1934-35 (Australia's most beautiful coin which few people have seen, it is also the rarest two-shilling piece. It was released to the public at the time for 3/-¹²); Federation 1901-1951; Royal Visit 1954. Also included is the very rare 1922 overdated threepence and 1930 penny. The legendary 1937 penny is not included as it was only a pattern and never intended for circulation. Since 1944 most Australian pennies and halfpennies have come from the Melbourne and Perth mints. Perth - minted coins can usually be distinguished by a small dot after the word "Penny", but on the 1952 and 1953 issues the dot appears after the word "Australia". The Melbourne mint strikes most of the silver coin, in fact, only once has the Perth mint issued a silver coin, when in 1946 1-1/3 million shillings were issued having a small dot (privy-mark) before the word "Shilling". Shillings minted at Melbourne in 1946 don't have a dot. The Perth-minted shillings are scarce.

Other easily recognizable scarce Australian coins are the following:- halfpennies: 1915, 1923, 1952, Pennies: 1914, 1925, 1930, 1946. Threepences: 1915, 1923, sixpences: except the early dates, most are common, shillings: 1915, 1921, 1933, 1940, florins: 1910, 1915, 1932, 1939, 1945. Practically all silver coins dated before 1942 are hard to obtain, especially those dated from 1910 to 1923.

The change over to decimals took place on February 14th 1966 and very few difficulties arose during the transition period. A new Mint was built in Australia and opened in 1965 to strike the new decimal coinage. The Royal Australian Mint, Canberra now supplies this country's entire annual coinage requirements and the requirements of certain foreign governments as well. Both the Perth and Melbourne Branches of the Royal Mint have ceased coinage operations. The designs of the decimal coins have been favourably

¹² 3 shillings

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accepted by the general public and numismatists alike. To date there has been one decimal Commemorative coin issue - for the bi-centenary of Captain Cook's discovery of the east coast of Australia, 1770-1970.



Figure 8 – Australia: 50 cents Cook commemorative (1970)

Commemorative coin issues are always well received and we can only hope that the Australian Government's attitude in this regard will be less conservative in future.



XVIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES

By Frank Robinson, NAV #713¹

INTRODUCTION

The XVIII Commonwealth Games were held in Melbourne from 16 to 26 March 2006. These Games brought 4500 competitors and 1500 officials from 71 countries of the Commonwealth to Melbourne. To help run the Games, approximately 15 000 volunteers were required. This is my story of my involvement in the Games.

WHY VOLUNTEER?

Some years ago, Len Henderson and Percy Zerman both spoke at an NAV meeting of their experiences at the Melbourne Olympic Games; they both projected a very positive feeling about their experiences.

I have had 16 years experience as a Leader in the Scout Association and thus understand the value of volunteers. As a Scout Leader I attended four Jamborees; I had previously attended one as a youth.

Another reason is a family connection. Marjorie Jackson², who was a gold medallist at the 1950 Games in Auckland and the 1954 Games in Vancouver (as well as the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki) and I are second cousins (our grandfathers on the Robinson side were brothers).

I had decided that I would like to be a volunteer at the 2006 Games.

REGISTERING AS A VOLUNTEER

A check of the official website³ showed that there would be a call for volunteers to register in the latter part of 2004. In early August 2004, it was possible to register my interest in volunteering.

Applications officially opened at 9:00 am on 31 January 2005 and could be made on-line over the internet or sent by post; more than 9000 applications

¹ Frank presented this paper at NAV meeting 924 on 17 June 2006

² Marjorie is currently Governor of South Australia

³ www.melbourne2006.com.au

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were received that day. Up to 15 000 volunteers were required and Melbourne 2006 (or M2006 as the organising body was known) stated they would cap applications at 20 000; this number was reached by 8 February.

APPLICATION

As well as the usual personal detail questions, there were also questions regarding skills, availability, role, preferred location, and volunteering experience. How did I answer some of these questions?

Skills

There were 41 categories; I nominated clerical, driving a car, ceremonies / production management.

Availability

In addition to the period of the Games, volunteers were also required for the 13 months leading up to the Games period and for a short time afterwards. I nominated the Games fortnight of 14-26 March as well as the fortnight either side.

Venue

As the Games were to be held at 21 locations in suburban and inner Melbourne and Victorian regional centres, applicants were asked to nominate up to three preferred venues which should be within one hours travel from where they would be staying during the Games. My nominations were Melbourne (1) and Lilydale (2).

Role

A total of 17 roles were listed; these were very generic. I nominated “General” (1), “Driving” (2), and “Road Events” (3).

Volunteering Experience

Having indicated “ceremonies” as one of my skills, I was required to give some extra information. I selected “Life Saver / Scout or Guide Leader” as my primary skill with highest level of experience being “Amateur / Volunteer experience” having had 16 years experience as a Scout Leader.

I received a letter in May 2005 acknowledging and thanking me for my application.

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ASSESSMENT

In late June 2005, I received a phone call inviting me to an assessment session. At this time, I was effectively offered a position as a “Flag Assistant” due to my Scouting experience. This phone call was followed by a written invitation to an assessment session on 13 July.

Assessment Session

This Assessment Session was held at the Volunteer Operations Centre (at the World Trade Centre in Melbourne). It consisted of group activities (both large and small) and a one on one interview. The large group session was a general introduction to the Games and the small group session was to observe how we would interact together to overcome a problem. In the interview I was offered a position as a Flag Assistant (as previously discussed over the phone) subject to the relevant security checks.⁴

Appointment

In August 2005 I received a letter congratulating me as they were offering me a “provisional” volunteer placement.

In mid October 2005 I received a letter with instructions for receiving information about my role at the Games. I had to confirm my acceptance by logging into the Volunteer Portal; when I did so, I found that my role was listed as “Medal Ceremonies Flag Assistant – Team 4” and that I would be located at the Melbourne Gun Club at Lilydale.

TEAM 2006 UNITE

The next event was “Team 2006 Unite” which was held at the Docklands stadium in Melbourne. There we all received our Team 2006 Workbooks which we were required to read before attending training sessions.

To enter the stadium, it was necessary to go through a security check (bag search and metal detectors). This was intended as a trial of the system to be used at the Games for all fixed venues.

This was the first time that the volunteers, staff, and contractors for the Games had been brought together. It was very much a promotional event designed to get everyone thinking “This is great!”

⁴ I found out later that, apparently, if you declined their offer and wanted something else, you were likely to miss out altogether!

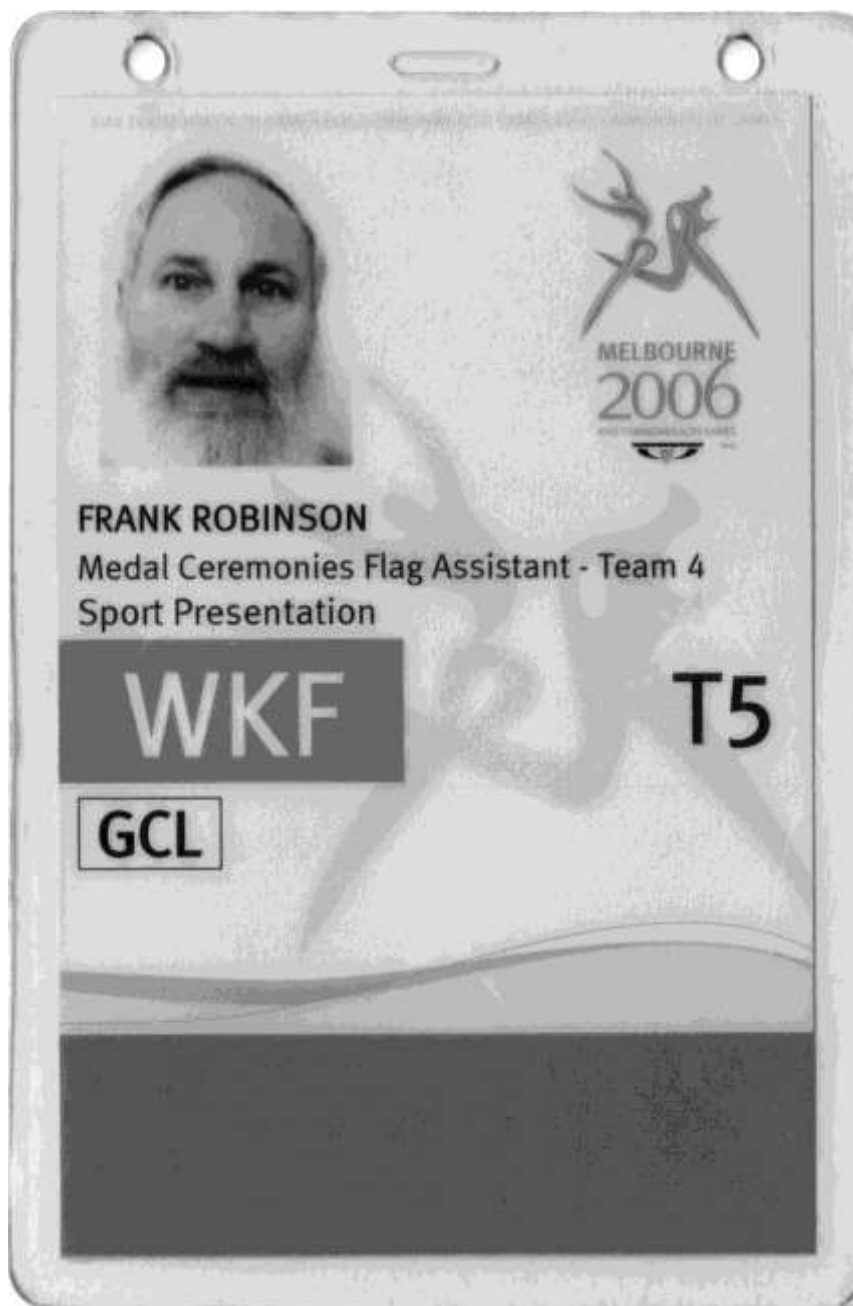


Figure 1 – My accreditation

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UNIFORM

Everyone involved in the Games needed a uniform and accreditation. This was staggered over a period of time with most of the 15 000 volunteers receiving theirs in the three months December to February.

The Volunteer Portal on the M2006 website informed me that the date that I should attend the Uniform and Accreditation Centre (UAC) was 27 February. In late January I received a phone call requesting me to attend the UAC on Monday 30 January to be measured for my Medal Presentation Team Uniform; I was also told that I would need to attend again for a fitting and later to pick up my uniform. This was because we had an on-camera role, they wanted our uniforms to fit properly. When I was being measured, the lady in charge said that only the ladies were required to come in for a fitting because “they’ve got a few more lumps and bumps” – my reply was “so I’ve noticed!” This was a quick visit.

On 27 February I again attended at the UAC. After waiting some time, we initially received our accreditation. We then proceeded to the fitting rooms to try on samples of the casual uniform to determine our correct sizes (these were then written on a uniform pick up slip); trouser length was measured to determine the amount that needed to be cut off. Then came the medal bearer’s uniform which was in a named suit bag – we had to try each item on to confirm that they fitted and the trouser length was measured to determine the amount that needed to be cut off. This all took some time, fortunately I was near the front of the queue.

We then picked up our casual uniform and various other items (water bottle, booklet with wear and care instructions, and another book titled *My Pocket Guide Team 2006*) and an open carry bag to put everything in. Then it was to the adjustment room where we had our trousers shortened. The medal bearer’s uniform was to be delivered direct to our venue.

TRAINING

Information on the Volunteer Portal indicated that all volunteers would receive two types of training – role specific and venue specific. The role specific training would enable the volunteers to carry out their specific role for the Games while the venue specific training would familiarise the volunteer with the venue where he/she would be working.

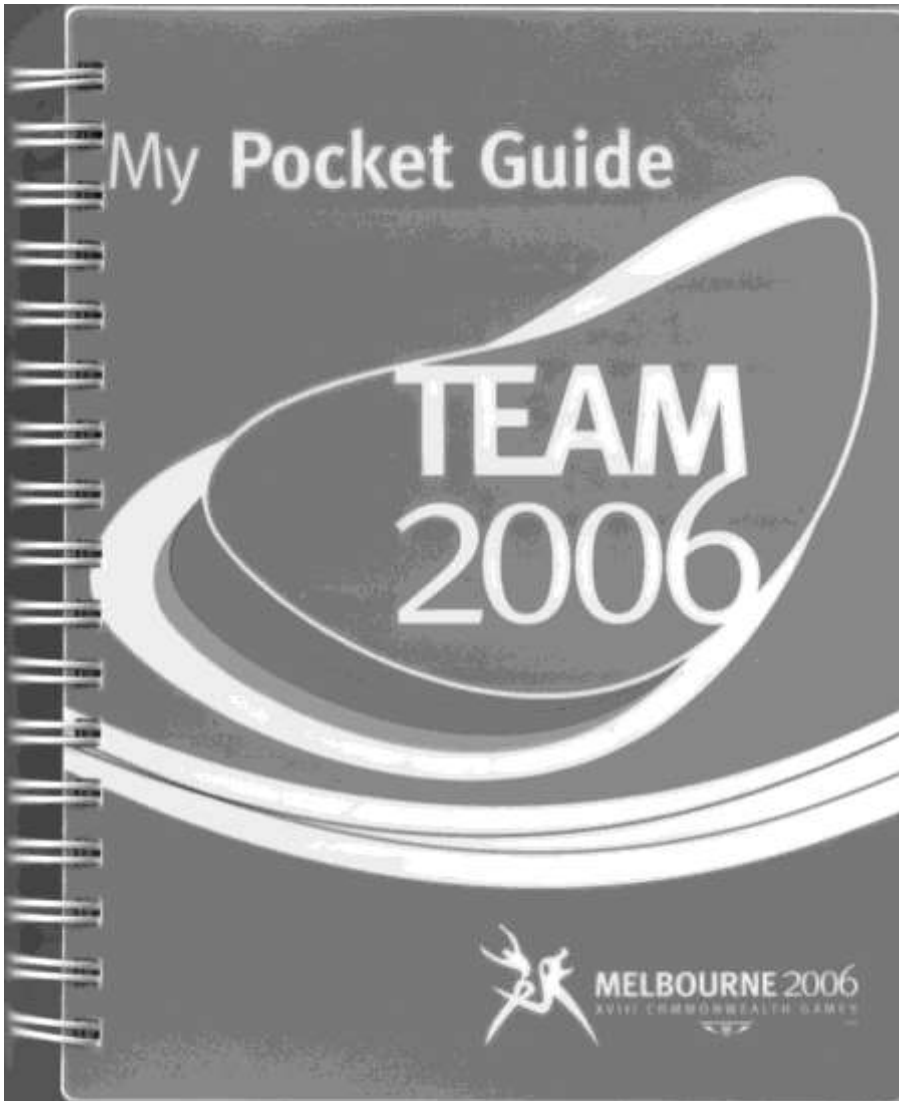


Figure 2 – “My Pocket Guide Team 2006”

The information I received (both in a letter and on the volunteer portal) only listed role specific training – this being on Saturday 25 February 2006 at the Moorabbin Campus of Holmesglen TAFE.

Our day of training involved six of the eleven medal presentation teams. After meeting the other members of our teams, we started the day with a

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briefing about the Games, Medal Ceremonies and the Team. Before breaking for lunch we had several goes at a medal ceremony – interesting exercises, I took part in one as a medal recipient.

After lunch each of the teams went to practice as a team with the exception of the flag assistants – we stayed as a group and were shown the basics of the procedure we were to follow. The flag supervisors for each of the teams were specially selected military personnel; there are six flag assistants and one flag supervisor in each team. We were then broken into our teams and had a practice before a torrential downpour forced us indoors. We all came back together for a final session which included another practice medal ceremony.

One of the volunteers was a deaf-mute and there were two ladies who took it in turns to translate everything that was said into sign language. Many of the rest of us were intrigued with the translation as it was very expressive.

We flag assistants had an extra training session at Victoria Barracks on Monday 13 March. Unfortunately, there were insufficient flags available and our team had their first practice without flags – interesting! After that we were able to practice with flags

OPENING CEREMONY

OPENING CEREMONY REHEARSAL

There were a few “perks” for the volunteers. One was complimentary tickets for one of the two rehearsals for the opening ceremony; I received (by mail) two tickets for Rehearsal One which was held on Friday 10 March. Although the ticket stated the starting time as 7:30 pm (and the advertising advised attendees to arrive early), there was only a little bit of action in the centre at that time. The actual rehearsal didn’t start until 8:30 pm and only parts of the opening ceremony were included. It was obvious that there were still some rough edges to smooth out, but it gave the impression that the opening ceremony would be pretty good.

FIREWORKS

As part of both the opening and closing ceremonies, there were large fireworks displays. Most of these were fired from the tops of various city buildings, as well as from the roof of the Melbourne Cricket Ground

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(MCG). These fireworks may only be fired by licensed pyrotechnicians. When a pyrotechnician intends to fire fireworks from a building (or other structure), approval must be sought from the Victorian Workcover Authority (VWA). (The VWA administer the legislation controlling fireworks and I work in the Unit doing this.)

Before issuing such an approval, an inspection of the building/structure is necessary. Thus I, and one of my colleagues, went to the tops of the buildings proposed to be used to check if they were suitable; this included ascertaining if there were likely to be any problems. I inspected the roof of both grandstands and one of the scoreboards of the MCG as well as a number of the city buildings visible from the MCG.

QUEEN'S BATON RELAY

Like many others, I watched the Opening Ceremony (Wednesday 15 March) on television. One of the highlights was the finish of the Queen's Baton Relay. The last four runners (ie those in the MCG) were Cathy Freeman, Ron Clarke, Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, and John Landy). As I mentioned earlier, Marjorie and I are cousins.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES DUTIES

The next day, Thursday 16 March, was the first day of competition at many venues. However at Lilydale, competition didn't start until the following day. The competitors (ie the shooters) had been practicing at the venue for some time and continued to do so on 16 March.

Thursday 16 March was the first day of duty for our Team. Our shift commenced at 12:30. Those coming from the City by Games transport had to meet at the World Trade Centre at that time, whereas those travelling direct to the venue (ie those that lived in the general area – which was most of our team) had to arrive at the venue at 12:30 (actually about 15 minutes before in both cases).

Everyone entering the venue had to go through a security check. The athletes and the volunteers used one entrance; the general public used another (which was located close to the car park). We had to put all metal objects in a tray and we were then screened with a hand held metal detector. Any "beeps" (eg steel cap shoes) had to be explained – it was easier than

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airport checks. Of course, we had to be wearing our accreditation or we didn't get in!

On the first day, I decided to play safe and have lunch before leaving home as I was uncertain about meal arrangements. When we arrived at the Workforce Check In, we received various items (including a meal voucher). While the others had lunch, I had a cuppa and biscuits. After that first day, I waited until I arrived at the venue to have lunch



Figure 3 - Meal vouchers – they were a different colour each day

About an hour after we arrived, those coming from the City joined us. After they had had their lunch, we were given a brief tour (induction) of the venue before being shown our tent (ie medal ceremonies tent).

There we unpacked the flags, checked them, folded, and placed them on labelled coat hangers.

We needed to practice our medal ceremony but as the ceremonies were to be held on Range 1, and the shooters were still practicing, we had to wait.

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Our turn came at 4:00 pm; we then did several practice runs using several volunteers as stand-in athletes and VIP presenters. At the flagpoles, we were surprised to find that the large bases prevented us from standing close to the flagpoles and the clasps for tying the ropes onto were relatively high – too high for the two shortest members of our flag team to reach! Apparently the poles were designed to be placed in holes in the ground such that the base was completely buried.

COMPETITION STARTS

For us, competition started on Friday 17 March. Our first job was the rather lengthy process of steaming all the flags. The reason for doing this was to take the creases out. We had a portable hand steamer for the purpose. This was done by two people holding the flag and a third person using the steamer. We took turns doing this.

There were two events that day at our venue. They were the Women's Trap Pairs and the Men's Trap Pairs. In the women's event, there were only three pairs entered and only gold medals were awarded; apparently no medals were given for coming last or second last. I did not take part in this medal ceremony. However for the men's event, medals of all three colours were awarded and I had the honour of raising the flag for the gold medallists (Michael Diamond and Adam Vella of Australia). Both ceremonies went well. Then it was change out of our medal ceremony uniforms and back into the casual uniforms (commonly referred to as "smurf" uniforms) and head home.

EVENTS

There were three disciplines in the shotgun shooting – trap, double trap, and skeet. In addition, for each of these, there were pairs and individual events with separate competitions for men and women. This gave a total of 12 events (which meant 12 medal ceremonies for us).

In the trap discipline, clay targets are fired from a series of 15 "traps" located in an underground bunker in front of the shooters; they are fired at various angles and trajectories away from the shooters (in the general direction that might be referred to as "out in front").

In the double trap discipline, two clay targets are fired at the same time from these "traps" and the shooter is required to hit both targets.

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Figure 4 – Trap shooting



Figure 5 – Skeet shooting [note broadcast box (left), flagpoles, and “high house” (right)]

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In the skeet discipline, two clay targets are fired – one from a building to the left of the shooters (the “high house”) and another from a building to the right of the shooters (the “low house”). These two targets were fired across in front of the shooters and the shooters shoot from the waist – far more difficult than trap or double trap!

With the skeet events, a lot more targets were missed. In between rounds, we were able to pick up intact targets and then handed them out to the younger spectators; some of them then got the shooters to autograph these clay targets. The closeness of the spectators to the competitors is shown in Figure 6.



Figure 6 – Spectators watching skeet shooting

MEDAL CEREMONIES

Our main duty was to perform the medal ceremonies at our venue. As mentioned earlier, there were 12 events and thus 12 ceremonies. This was spread over eight days of competition. The ceremonies were held at the end of each day's competition; there were two events and ceremonies on four of the days and one on each of the other four days.

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Our Medal Ceremonies Team consisted of 15 people:

- 1 Team Manager
- 1 Team Co-ordinator
- 1 VIP Marshall
- 1 Flag Supervisor
- 1 Athlete Escort
- 1 VIP Escort
- 3 Medal Bearers
- 6 Flag Assistants.

As the first three team members only had off-camera roles, they only had the casual uniforms. The Flag Supervisor was a RAAF serviceman and was required to wear his military uniform. The remaining 11 of us all had on-camera roles and were required to wear our medal ceremonies uniforms for these ceremonies.

We six flag assistants divided ourselves into three pairs. One of each pair would carry the flag while the other would raise and lower the flag. We had been going to swap roles, but the tie-offs were too high for two of us. I was one of the flag raisers.



Figure 7 - Medal Ceremonies Team 4

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About an hour before the ceremony, we would start changing into our uniforms. If necessary, the uniform would be steamed to remove any creases. The Team Co-ordinator would prepare the three trays with the medals and bouquets. The flags for the medallists would be prepared. A printout was received each day informing us of the VIPs for that day's ceremony(ies) and the estimated time for the ceremony(ies).



Figure 8 – Norma with tray with gold medals and bouquets

Shortly before the ceremony time, the VIP Marshall would collect the VIPs from the VIP tent (next to out tent) and bring them to the medal ceremonies tent. The VIP Escort would then brief the VIPs on their role in the ceremony. Our Team would line up inside the tent and then march out to the edge of Range 1 where the ceremony would be held; there we lined up against the fence that separated us from the general public (Figure 9). The athletes joined us there once they had been briefed by the Athlete Escort.

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While waiting at the fence (which was waist high), some members of the public asked to look at the medals and bouquets; the medal bearers usually obliged by turning side on and they were usually photographed from as close as one metre. It was a chance to relax before the concentration of the actual ceremony.



Figure 9 – Lined up ready for a medal ceremony

When the signal was given, the music started and we marched out. The medal bearers headed towards the right of the podium (as viewed by the public), the athlete escort took the athletes to the left of the podium and then behind it before retreating to the left side, the VIP escort followed the athletes and stopped to the left of the podium. Meanwhile the flag assistants headed across the front of the arena, in front of the broadcast box, and behind the flagpoles.

Directed by the flag raiser for the bronze medallist, we flag raisers untied the ropes from the flagpoles and clipped them onto the flags. When this was done, we turned to watch the ceremony until the gold medallist's national anthem was ready to be played. We then raised the flags – we had approximately 25 seconds to do so and the three flags had to reach the top at the same time (gold flag first). After tying the ropes off, we then stood to attention.



Figure 10 – Presentations completed during a medal ceremony



Figure 11 – Flags raised during a medal ceremony

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After the ceremony finished, the medal bearers would march off followed by the VIP escort and VIPs. The athletes would stay on the podium for photographs and then the athlete escort would lead the athletes off. As the athlete escort came level with the bronze flagpole, we would start to lower the flags; again they needed to come down together, but a bit faster than putting them up. We then marched off, often going behind the athletes who were being interviewed by the press near the front of the arena.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Another “perk” was that all volunteers received one only ticket to the closing ceremony. This was also held at the MCG and was on Sunday 26 March. Most of our Team met in the city and we spent the afternoon together before heading to the MCG.

VOLUNTEERS PARADE

On Monday 27 March, a parade was held in Melbourne to honour the Australian athletes and the volunteers. A number of us who worked at the Lilydale venue managed to meet and marched together in this parade.

NUMISMATIC ITEMS

As this is a numismatic journal, I had better give some information on the various numismatic items issued to commemorate these Commonwealth Games. These items fall into three categories:

- Coins
- Medals
- Banknotes

COINS

There were a number of different coins produced for the Games. Most were in the category of “non-circulating legal tender” (so-called “collector coins”) with one issue released for general circulation. While most coins were available in uncirculated condition, several were also struck as proofs. Although I am not aware of any other countries striking coins to commemorate these Games, it is possible that some countries, particularly members of the Commonwealth, may have done so.

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Listed by denomination, the following Australian coins were issued:

- 50 cents
 - Secondary School Student Competition
 - Spirit of the Games Series
- 1 dollar
- 5 dollars
 - Commonwealth Nations
 - Queen's Baton Relay
 - City of Sport
- 30 dollars
- 50 dollars

50 Cent Secondary School Student Competition Coin

A competition was held for students to design a 50 cent coin to promote the Games. The winner was 16 year old Kelly Just of Callignee (in Gippsland). Her design was adapted by Vladimir Gottwald (of the Royal Australian Mint). This cupro-nickel coin is dated 2005 (the only one of these coins dated 2005). Kelly's initials (KJ) appear on the lower right.

Her design shows six athletes, each paired with an Australian animal which is mimicking the athlete. These pairs are runner and emu, high jumper and frog, diver and dolphin, long jumper and kangaroo, swimmer and platypus, rhythmic gymnast and brolga.



Figure 12 - Kelly Just winning design for the Secondary School Student Competition Coin

While Kelly's design had a map of Victoria (containing the denomination numerals and text "MELBOURNE 2006 COMMONWEALTH GAMES") in the centre, the coin as struck has "50" within a "circle" (actually a hollow dodecagon) with the text "MELBOURNE 2006 XVIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES" on the circle. Another modification to Kelly's design was to delete one athlete/animal pair (the diver and dolphin).

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This was the only one of these Commonwealth Games coins struck for circulation. The uncirculated version was also available in both a card 95 mm x 60 mm) and in a card sheet as part of a folder (see below). The page in the folder also contained Kelly's original design. The proof coin was issued in blue case.



Figure 13 - Secondary School Student Competition 50 Coin

Spirit of the Games 50 Cent Coins

A set of 16 different 50 cent coins was issued progressively from May 2005 until February 2006. All these coins are dated 2006. Each coin features a figure (in the “spirit” logo) competing in one of the 16 different sports. Also shown on each coin is the official logo of the Games, the denomination numerals (50) and the legend “XVIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES”. These coins were all designed by Wojciech Pietranik of the Royal Australian Mint.



Figure 14 - Spirit of the Games 50 cent coin - Shooting

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These coins were only available as uncirculated coins and were issued in cards in groups of four. A folder, titled “Melbourne 2006 Uncirculated Coin Collection” was issued for these cards to be placed in; it also contained a page with the Secondary School Student Competition Coin (as mentioned above). They were not issued for circulation.

The sports depicted on these coins are (in the groups as issued):

- basketball, hockey, shooting, weightlifting;
- badminton, gymnastics, rugby 7's, cycling;
- athletics, triathlon, netball, table tennis;
- aquatics, boxing, lawn bowls, squash.

1 Dollar

Inspired by the “United by the moment” slogan of the Games, this one dollar coin features the Games logo with an incused “1” at left; an “M” ‘mintmark’ in an incuse circle is at upper right. Struck from aluminium bronze and dated 2006, this coin was designed by Tony Dean. Both the obverse and reverse are shown. This coin was issued in a card folder.



Figure 15 – 1 dollar coin

5 Dollars Commonwealth Nations

This five dollar coin displays stylised figures representing both the spirit and sports of the games which were used as the logo for these Games. These figures are repeated forming two rings with 36 figures in the outer ring and 35 in the inner ring; they represent the 71 nations of the Commonwealth taking part in the Games. The Queen’s crown and the Commonwealth Games Federation logo are featured in the centre. This coin was designed by Wojciech Pietranik (of the Royal Australian Mint), struck from aluminium / zinc bronze and is dated 2006. It was issued in a display card folder.

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Figure 16 - 5 Dollars Commonwealth Nations

5 Dollars Queen's Baton Relay

Since 1958 the Queen's Baton Relay has been used to carry Her Majesty's message to the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games. The Relay for the 2006 Games has been the longest, going to all 71 countries of the Commonwealth in 366 days. The Baton carried a GPS and camera which relayed pictures and sound to the internet. The baton also carried the message electronically. Designed by Peter Soobik, this five dollar coin features the Baton, a runner, and Melbourne's Princes Bridge.

It was available in two versions - proof struck in 0.999 fine silver which was issued in a blue case and uncirculated in aluminium bronze which was issued in a card sheet as part of the Spirit of the Games folder.



Figure 17 - 5 Dollars Queen's Baton Relay

5 Dollars City of Sport

This five dollar coin depicts the Games logo against a silhouette of Melbourne buildings above the Yarra River; the logo, buildings and sky are reflected in the river. Designed by Wojciech Pietranik, this coin was struck in 0.999 fine silver and was issued in a blue case.

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Melbournians are well known for their love of sport and it is appropriate that a coin was struck under this title (although this title does not appear on the coin).



Figure 18 - 5 Dollars City of Sport

30 Dollars

A \$30 silver coin weighing 1 kg and with a diameter of 100 mm was struck. The reverse of this coin, designed by Peter Soobik, features the Games logo and the Southern Cross within a border formed by representations of the 16 sports (as shown on the “Spirit of the Games” 50 cents coins).

50 Dollars

A \$50 tri-colour proof coin was also struck. The outer ring is copper (99.9%), the inner ring is silver (0.999 fine), and the centre is gold plated (24 ct) silver. This coin was designed by Wojciech Pietranik.



Figure 19 - \$50 tri-colour proof coin

The obverse features Queen Elizabeth II on the gold centre, a decorative floral design on the silver ring, and the legend “ELIZABETH II AUSTRALIA 2006 50 DOLLARS” on the copper ring. The reverse has the games logo in colour on the gold centre, the repeated text “XVIII

XVIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES

COMMONWEALTH GAMES” in 13 lines on the silver ring, and representations of the 16 sports (again as shown on the “Spirit of the Games” 50 cents coins) on the copper ring.

This coin was only available as part of a three coin set in a wooden case. The other two coins were the proof silver \$5 “City of Sport” and uncirculated aluminium zinc bronze \$5 “Commonwealth Nations”.

MEDALS

Medals for the Games fall into three categories – those issued to honour the competitors who came first, second, or third in their events, those issued to thank the volunteers, and those issued for sale to the general public.

Competitors’ Medals

Medals for the competitor are traditionally gold for first place, silver for second, and bronze for third. While the metallic content of the latter two medals are usually as their popular name states, gold medals are usually gold plated silver. Such was the case for the competitors’ medals for these Games.



Figure 20 - Competitors’ Gold Medal

The obverse features the logo of the XVIII Commonwealth Games on the right with “MELBOURNE 2006” vertically. The reverse features a crown above the Commonwealth Games Federation logo with the legend “XVIII

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COMMONWEALTH GAMES” around above and “HUMANITY • EQUALITY • DESTINY” below. These medals were struck by the Royal Australian Mint and have a diameter of 55 mm.

Each medal had a loop attached at the top with “V”-shaped solid metal ribbon through the loop. A metal chain (referred to as a lanyard) was attached to the ends of the ribbon. Each medal came in a black presentation case which was presented to the competitor immediately after the medal presentation ceremony.

Volunteers' Medals

The Melbourne Commonwealth Games Corporation and the Office of Commonwealth Games Coordination issued a medallion to all volunteers to show their gratitude and acknowledge the volunteer's contribution towards the staging of the Games. The obverse features the Games' logo with an athlete on the left and a gymnast on the right with the slogan “UNITED BY THE MOMENT” below. The central design of the reverse is based on the reverse of the medals presented to the successful competitors. These bronze medals were struck by the Royal Australian Mint and have a diameter of 60 mm. They were issued in a brown case.



Figure 21 - Volunteers' Medal

Commercial Medals

I am aware of two commercial sets of medals; however more medals (either sets or individuals) may have been available.

XVIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES

1 Medallion Set MGSB-03

This set of three 50 mm medallions depicts the Games logo on the obverse. The reverse of each medal has the legend “XVIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES” around above and “MELBOURNE 15-26 MARCH 2006” around below; across the centre is one word “DESTINY” (gold finish), “EQUALITY” (silver finish), and “HUMANITY” (bronze finish).



Figure 22 – A medallion from Medallion Set MGSB-03

2 Melbourne Icons Medallion Set

A set of three medallions was issued by Australia Post and designed by Sally Piskuric (Australia Post Design Studio). This set features three of Melbourne’s icons – Luna Park, the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), and a W-class tram. These 38 mm medallions were struck with a “gold / nickel finish”. The Field and Track events were held at the MCG which is Melbourne’s premier sporting stadium.



Figure 23 – Melbourne Icon medallion featuring a W-Class tram

BANKNOTES

I am only aware of one banknote being issued for these Commonwealth Games. This was a 10 pound note issued by the Clydesdale Bank PLC in Scotland. Paper money for use in Scotland is still issued by private banks (Bank of Scotland, Clydesdale Bank, and Royal Bank of Scotland).

The front of this note keeps the current design of the 10 pound note which features Mary Slessor but with a commemorative overprint on the right (over the watermark area) of Scotland's Commonwealth Games Association with the legend "COMMONWEALTH GAMES" above and "MELBOURNE 2006" and "Proud Partner" below. (The Clydesdale Bank is owned by the National Australia Bank which was a major sponsor of the XVIII Commonwealth Games.)

The back of the note has a new design of a montage of competitors in a number of the sports of the Games. The legend "COMMONWEALTH GAMES MELBOURNE 2006" appears below the montage.



Figure 24 - 10 pound, Clydesdale Bank, 2006 (shown at 60%)

XVIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES

PINS

For those interested in pins, there were a large number available. There were 133 official pins and I have no idea of how many privately issued pins. In addition, there were a number of pins that were only issued to the volunteers. Then there were pins from the various countries competing in the Games.

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THE MELBOURNE CENTENARY FLORIN AND “THE STAR” NEWSPAPER

By Len Henderson, NAV #409¹

To commemorate the centenary of permanent settlement in Victoria, and the foundation of Melbourne, it was decided by Treasury, from a suggestion made by the Lord Mayor (Sir Harold Gengoult Smith), to issue a special coin. The coin so issued was our second commemorative florin.

THE CENTENARY FLORIN

The obverse was a crowned bust of the king, George V, from a design by Percy Metcalfe. This bust had already appeared on the New Zealand and Fijian coinage and later was used on the 1935 Canadian dollar, then again for the Waitangi crown. The inscription was a novelty for Australian coinage - being in English “GEORGE V KING EMPEROR” instead of the usual Latin.

The reverse design, by George Kruger Gray, was of a horseman bearing a flaming torch with an English inscription “CENTENARY – VICTORIA MELBOURNE 1934-35” and the word “FLORIN” between ornaments in a clearly marked exergue.



Figure 1 – Australia Centenary florin, 1934-35

It was decided to issue 75 000 pieces but, because they were released at a shilling premium, only 54 000 were sold and 21 000 were melted down.

The design that appeared was not the first chosen and the whole concept of a special coin and local celebration met with resistance.

¹ Len presented this paper at NAV Meeting 921 on 17 March 2006

THE MELBOURNE CENTENARY FLORIN AND “THE STAR” NEWSPAPER



Figure 2 – Canada 1 dollar obverse 1935

The Argus newspaper of 28 September 1934 announced the news of this special issue.

SALES

The reason of issuing a two shilling coin at a price of three shillings was discussed in Parliament and the excess price was classed as a “Sales Tax”². As special medals were being issued (with a sales tax) it was felt, by the Government, that they “had no power to remit sales tax” as the coin would be a souvenir issue. There was a “Question of Precedent” and a “Question of Morality” involved.

Much has been made of the claim that the extra shilling would go towards the cost of the decorations, etc but even if all the florins had been sold the extra money would have only come to £3750 less expenses.

Resignations from the “Centenary Council” took place early in 1935 and sales of the coin lagged. By 15 June only 30 000 had been sold but by 24 June it was reported that there had been an “improved demand”. It was reported in *The Argus* that “the coins were being bought by American collectors”. They had a poor sale here!

TO CELEBRATE OR NOT

Some local Councils condemned not only the florin but also all celebrations. Money for the event should not have been spent on all the decorations and festivities but just given to the people. Some of the Councils could not see that the money being spent meant work (directly and indirectly) for thousands of people.³

² Normal sales tax was one penny in the shilling, but this was sixpence!

³ This was during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Geelong “refused to take part in any illuminated spectacle”. Brunswick “criticized the celebrations” and even the Melbourne City Council said “the tower erected at Princes Bridge was a blot on the metropolis”.

DESIGN

People tried to read symbolism into the design of the horseman and his torch. Some said the sparks spelt out a message in Morse code.

The first design was by Raynor Hoff and had been condemned – it was said to “look like a Death’s Head plague”. That design was modified and appeared on the Centenary medal.⁴

FOY & GIBSON

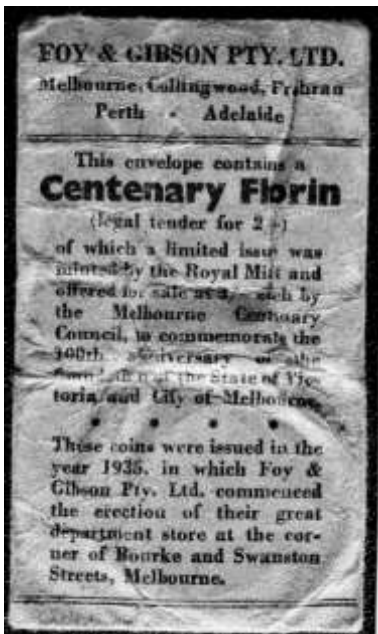


Figure 3 – Foy and Gibson bags, Melbourne (left) and Perth (right)

Boxed florins were sold (at three shillings) from the Melbourne Town Hall. It was only after “Foy’s” took over the distribution that sales rose. “Foy’s” had just opened their new store on the corner of Bourke and Swanston

⁴ C1935/9

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Streets. “Foy’s” had started in Fitzroy in Smith Street and in various names traded as “Foy & Gibson”, “Mark Foy”, and “Foy, Akman”.

Most of the florins were sold by “Foy’s” and they were issued in a special envelope. A modest number, perhaps only 100, were sent to a “Foy’s” store in Perth and that particular envelope is excessively scarce.

“THE STAR” COMPETITION

One of the scarcest issues of this commemorative coin came from the Melbourne evening newspaper *The Star* which ran a competition at the time and issued the florins in a special box.

I have been able to do research on this coin by going through the files, and index, of the morning paper *The Argus* but have had little success with *The Star* – a paper which only lasted about 18 months. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say no success with the Newspaper Room at the La Trobe Library. They won’t produce the files until I tell them just what day of the month I wanted to see and I didn’t know when *The Star* competition was held until I could find it in the papers; the other newspapers in Melbourne did not give any publicity to a rival.

OTHER CELEBRATIONS

As a digression, my research deals with the Melbourne Centenary Celebrations, and the part played in them by *The Star* was only one part. Other things of interest to numismatists happened.

VISIT OF THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

We received a visit from HRH Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester⁵ and many events happened then. One event was a performance by the children of Victoria and my brother took part in that. The Shrine of Remembrance was opened (and dedicated) on Sunday 11 November. This day used to be called “Armistice Day” but is now known as “Remembrance Day”. The Duke wore the full dress uniform of the Austrian Army! It was more colourful and the Shrine was to commemorate **all** the dead; the inscription

⁵ He was later Governor General of Australia (1945 – 47)

on the wall states "... all may worship here ...". A brass medalet with enamelling was issued to commemorate his visit.⁶

AERIAL EVENTS

The MacRobertson Air Race from England to Australia was sponsored by Sir MacPherson Robertson (of chocolate fame). Twenty aeroplanes started from Mildenhall in Surrey but only nine finished the course in the 16 day time limit.⁷

The winners of the race were C W Scott and Capt Campbell Black in 70 hours 54 minutes of actual flying time in a DH 88 Comet with an engine of 225 horsepower. The last plane came in three months late due to frequently getting water in the engine; this was a Fairey Fox bomber piloted by Ray Parer and Geoff Hemsworth. They had bought the ex RFC plane for only £200 and this included a new engine. If anyone wants more information on this air race, they can get it from an excellent article in the November 2005 issue of the Queensland Numismatic Society magazine.⁸ A gilded bronze medalet was issued for this event.⁹

A further flying event in 1934, and of interest to stamp collectors, was the first airmail flight from Australia to New Zealand. There had been earlier airmail to England and this flight to New Zealand was by C T P Ulm, AFC, and returned with airmail in three days.

I was a junior schoolboy at that time, and as with so many others, whenever an aeroplane flew over our house, I would run into the backyard and shout "It's Amy Johnson!"

⁶ C1934/4

⁷ Another two arrived in the next three weeks.

⁸ Shea, G, "The 1934 MacRobertson London to Melbourne Centenary Air Race" in *QNS Monthly Magazine*, Nov 2005, Vol 20 No 11, pp12-15

see also Jenkin, HJ, "The Melbourne Centenary Air Race" in *Australian Numismatist*, 1986, pp33-42

and "1934 International Air Race" section in Robinson, FJ, "Centenary of Flight, Part 2: Biplane to Shuttle – From 1904 to 2003" in *Australian Numismatist*, 2005, pp64-65

⁹ C1934/5

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SPORTS

For the sports lovers, the first Women’s Cricket Test between “the old enemies” (ie England and Australia) was held at the end of December, but in Brisbane not Melbourne.

CAPTAIN COOK’S COTTAGE

Captain Cook’s Cottage (really his parents’) was bought by Sir Russell Grimwade on condition that it would not leave England but he was able to get this altered for it to “remain in the British Empire”. It was pulled apart, stored in boxes and barrels, and transported on the *Port Dunbar*, re-erected and opened in October 1934; one of the supervisors was Percy Meldrum.

OTHER EVENTS AND MEDALS

There was a bicycle race but I have not seen any medals for that. Stokes struck a medalet for the Country Fire Brigades Demonstration held at Bendigo¹⁰. The Melbourne Royal Show issued a special medal¹¹. The Professional Photographers of Victoria produced a medal in silver¹². Portland produced its medalet to commemorate the first settlement¹³ and they were still available in 1959 when I was given one there at the local museum.



Figure 4 – Portland medalet C1934/8

¹⁰ C1934/2

¹¹ C1934/6

¹² C1934/7

¹³ C1934/8

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The Salon of Photography issued their own medal in three finishes¹⁴ but using a common reverse with the just mentioned Professional group. Two different styles of awards for the Philatelic Exhibitions have medals that often appear¹⁵.



Figure 5 - Philatelic Exhibition medal C1934/11

The Boy Scouts should not be forgotten as they held their first Australian Jamboree at Frankston (running into the next year). In addition to the cloth badge to wear, they also issued a silver medalet¹⁶.

Not quite in the usual numismatic field was an Ecumenical Congress where, not a medal but, a badge in the shape of a cross was issued.¹⁷

The Victorian Horticultural Council issued medals in bronze and sterling silver.¹⁸ A medalet was struck in both brass and silvered bronze commemorating the centenary of Victoria on one side and the centenary of Melbourne on the other side.¹⁹ The City of Malvern issued an oval shaped medalet in silvered bronze and silver.²⁰ The Victorian Croquet Association issued a cross shaped medalet in gilded bronze.²¹

¹⁴ C1934/10

¹⁵ C1934/11 and C1934/12

¹⁶ C1935/4

¹⁷ NIC

¹⁸ C1934/1

¹⁹ C1934-35/1

²⁰ C1934-35/2

²¹ C1934-35/3

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“THE STAR” COMPETITION

Reverting now to *The Star* “Who Will It Be?” competition. This was for the most popular person in either Melbourne or Victoria. The competition began on 19 October 1934. Even *The Star* did not know what they were going to do after they had started it. They said there would be 100 prizes, reduced this to 52 and then rapidly increased to 101.

The total value of the prizes was to be £500. The prizes would be awarded on votes from readers but everyone began with 1000 votes as a starting measure.

The first prize was valued at £100, the second prize at £50 and the remaining 50 or 99 prizes ranged from £35 downwards. The contest officially closed on 5 January 1935 but was kept open for a few more days.

In the early voting a Miss Darling of Carlton Brewery was in the lead but she dropped back and ended up in 25th position.

The first prize, valued at £100, was a fully paid ocean cruise for two valued at £75 plus a three-piece lounge suite from J G Guest valued at £25.

The second prize was an open order from Craig Williamson (corner of Elizabeth and Flinders Streets, Melbourne) for £50.

Third prize was an A J C motorcycle from Stillwell and Parry valued at £35; then 50 other prizes having a total value of £500.

The contest told the newspaper in what suburbs it was most popular. The increase to 102 prizes came on 27 October.

The closing date was altered by a few days and prizes were announced at a Grand Ball at the Royal Exhibition Building on Tuesday 15 January 1935. The prize winners were announced by Frank (later Sir Frank) Beaurepaire. First prize, with 318 790 votes went to L Coban of Port Melbourne.

The second prize winner is unknown – he/she is not even mentioned in the pages of *The Star*!

Third prize went to Norman Banks, then with radio 3KZ; he later went to 3AW.

Bob Pratt, the South Melbourne footballer, came fourth. Fred Tupper of 3XY was presumably next.

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At the Ball there was dancing to the 15 piece band of “Dick Richards and his Pennsylvanians” whilst model aeroplane flying took place inside the building! There was also a ten-act variety programme. All this for an admission charge of 2/2d (ie 2 shillings and 2 pence) and “attendees to carry a copy of *The Star*”. They catered for 8000 people. There was a second dance band.

If the figure of 102 prize winners each received a commemorative coin, in its distinctive box we can deduce that there are 54 of these but 100 prepared.



Figure 6 – Boxed Centenary florin for “The Star” Contest

***THE MELBOURNE CENTENARY FLORIN AND “THE STAR”
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A few other boxes (number unknown) were issued with local inscriptions such as the one for the Minyip Progress Association President, James Barnes, President for 32 years.



Figure 7 - Boxed Centenary florin from Minyip Progress Association

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To conclude, here is one further humorous incident involving the coin in its “Foy’s” envelope. Some years ago, in the hey-day of coin collecting, advertisements appeared appealing for this coin “in its original Foy’s bag”. A woman turned up with a handbag which she had bought at “Foy’s” and it contained a Chinese cash coin pinned inside it – the argument being that as you could not spend it, and you left it there, you would always have money in your bag! My mother had a purse like this but eventually it was thrown away.

All these boxes and envelopes I have described is an example of the container influencing the collecting desirability of the thing contained.

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AUSTRALIA'S WORST COIN EVER STRUCK?

By Ross Wilkinson, NAV 1120¹

I am one of those peculiar people who become fascinated by one particular part of numismatics. In my case, it is the 50 Cent coin. Over the years since the introduction of decimal currency I have become intrigued by the various issues and variations that have occurred.

It started with the original silver coin issued on 14 February 1966. Right from the start through to this day, I consider it the most beautiful of all Australian coins ever minted. One of the most favoured items in my collection is a mint uncirculated example with the autograph of one of its designer's, Stuart Devlin, on the surrounding 2x2 cover.

As my interest in numismatics progressed, I gradually became aware of minor flaws and varieties occurring in our circulating coinage. Even my favourite coin has a variety with the first appearance of the faint "double bars" behind the emu's head on the standard reverse Devlin Coat of Arms. This became more distinct in the 1979 and 1980 mintages and has appeared in fainter form in several other mintages including 1993, 1996 and 2004. And, of course, the 1994 Year of the Family had the wide and narrow date varieties. And so on.....

However, this is not what this paper is about. Through articles in publications like *Australasian Coin and Banknote Magazine*, I became aware of what were termed by others as "varieties" of a 50 cent coin issued to commemorate a very important event in Australia's history. As I looked further, I became aware of just how many different examples there were to the point I was questioning whether these were mistakes allowed into circulation or true varieties.

Because of the large number of variations I encountered, it also led me to dub this particular mintage as "Australia's worst ever minted coin".

Welcome to the 2001 50 cent Anniversary of Federation coin!

¹ Ross presented this paper at Numismatic Association of Victoria meeting No 927 on 15 September 2006.

THE 2001 50 CENT ANNIVERSARY OF FEDERATION COIN

The particular coin I am studying in the Federation series is what I call the “Master Coin”, that is, the Australian “Parliamentary” Coat of Arms.

It was minted to commemorate the Centenary of Australia’s Federation and came as the master coin in a series of 50 Cent coins for each of the states.

The coin is produced using a cupro-nickel planchet consisting of 75% copper and 25% nickel. It is 31.50 millimetres across, weighs 15.55 grams and is dodecagonal in shape, that is, a polygon with 12 equal sides. The obverse is the “older bust” or Type 3 Queen Elizabeth II bust designed by Ian Rank Broadley and introduced in 1999. The reverse is the traditional Australian or Parliamentary crest as distinct from Stuart Devlin’s design.

Mintage figures are as follows:

Circulation	43 49 600
Mint sets	90 822
Baby Mint sets	32 494
Proof sets	60 000
Baby Proof sets	15 011
Gold Proof sets	600



Photo 1 – Standard Obverse and Reverse

FAULTS

The initial fault identified was some doubling on the 50 on the reverse. The next faults identified were again doubling at the date and the words Australia and Elizabeth on the obverse. So, like all avid collectors, I began to examine all examples of this coin that crossed my path. Those that showed these faults I put to one side and the rest I put back into circulation. Mistake!

AUSTRALIA'S WORST COIN EVER STRUCK?

About March 2006, I began to notice more irregularities with this coin so began to investigate more thoroughly. I started to gather as many as I could through ordinary circulation and retail trade. I have not attempted to buy bulk supplies from any one source as this may skew results of my survey.

In order to make the results fairly wide but also manageable, I determined on a sample population of 200 coins. These were collected in fits and starts over six months from ordinary loose change in my pocket. In some cases I would get two or three each day and in others, a couple of weeks would go by before a sample came into my possession. The difficulty was when I reached my population limit and they kept appearing with better examples of the errors/varieties. I stopped collecting.

In summary, I have identified two issues with this coin

- doubling on the obverse and/or reverse
- misalignment of the rim on the obverse and/or reverse.

1 DOUBLING

Obverse

"Australia"

"Elizabeth"

"2001"

Profile of Queen's image

Reverse

"50"

"Filigree Scroll Kangaroo's tail"

"Filigree Scroll under Emu"

"Left-hand Leaves"

"Ribbon under Australia"

"Star above Coat of Arms"

"Shield and Australia"

Of the sample population of 200 coins, 98 (or 49%) have no identified doubling faults at all, 43 (21.5%) have faults on the obverse only, 34 (17%) have doubling on the reverse only and 25 (12.5% have faults on both sides of the coin).

A Obverse

The samples show examples of either a single fault or a combination of faults. I found several coins with all four identified faults. Of interest is that there were slightly more faults than clean samples with the obverse faults representing 51% of the samples.

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“Australia” – there were several examples ranging from minor doubling to quite extensive doubling along several letters.



Photo 2 – Obverse Doubling of “Australia” (300%)

“Elizabeth” – similar to above.

“2001” – minor doubling to the figures.



Photo 3 – Obverse Doubling of “Elizabeth” and “2001” (500%)

“Profile” – the scarcest of the doubling examples although occurring at several points around the profile.



Photo 4 – Obverse doubling of Elizabeth II's profile (400%, except bottom right 300%)

AUSTRALIA'S WORST COIN EVER STRUCK?

B Reverse

The samples show examples of either a single fault or a combination of faults. I did not find any example with all seven identified faults.

“50” – most common of the reverse faults with varying degrees of doubling, mainly on the “5” of the “50”.

“Kangaroo Tail” – The Kangaroo’s tail is resting along a solid scroll on the left half of the reverse. Various degrees of doubling have occurred at this point.



Photo 5 – Reverse doubling of “kangaroo tail” and reverse rim left [left], and right-hand scroll [right] (300%)

“Right-hand Scroll” – Similar to the above but on the right side of the reverse on the scroll where the Emu stands.

“Left-hand Leaves” – doubling of leaves below the scroll on which the emu is standing.

“Ribbon” – Varying degrees of doubling on the ribbon at the base of the Coat of Arms.

“Star” – Varying degrees of doubling on the star above the Coat of Arms.



Photo 6 – Reverse Doubling) of “50”, “ribbon”, and “star” (500%)

“Shield and Australia” – This is an unexplained blurring of the left-hand top corner of the shield in the coat of arms and most of the word “Australia” on the scroll beneath the shield.

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Photo 7 – Reverse Blurring) of “Australia” on ribbon under shield (300%)

As the mintage of the 2001 coin is the second largest listed in McDonald (Thirteenth Edition), the probable explanation for these is linked to this large number. Most likely it has occurred in retooling of the dies as they have worn during the prolonged minting period. Some of the faults are single faults only and very fine. Others are multiples of faults and very clearly noticeable. It is likely that this has occurred because of retooling of previously retooled dies.

The unexplained blurring on the reverse shown above is rather peculiar and presents as though it occurred after circulation. On closer examination, the detail in the area of the coin around these faults is quite clean and distinct. It appears as though something soft may have been on the planchet or die when the coin was minted. It appears isolated and not related to the general faults discussed here.

However, whilst the mintage is quite large, it is not the largest.

Year	Mintage	Comment
1966	36 454 000	First mintage (Silver round)
1969	14 015 000	First mintage (Cupro-nickel 12 sided)
1980	38 681 000	
1983	48 923 000	
2001	43 149 600	Federation issue

I have not observed this level of fault in the similar large issues so whilst it is most likely a retooling problem, why was it so apparent on the common features such as the words “Australia” and “Elizabeth”? It did not appear on the larger issue 1983 coin.

AUSTRALIA'S WORST COIN EVER STRUCK?

2 MISALIGNMENT OF RIM

This fault occurs on both the obverse and reverse of the coins. The fault varies in magnitude by a millimetre or so to leave a double edge or lip on one edge and a thin or non-existent lip on the opposite edge. The following chart shows the breakdown of occurrence of this misalignment across both the obverse and reverse of the study group of coins and the relationship, if any, to the tooling errors on each surface.



Photo 8 – Doubling of Obverse rim left (350%)



Photo 9 – Doubling of Obverse rim right (350%)

Rim Errors

Error	OK	Obv	Rev	Both	Total	%
<i>Obverse</i>						
Rim OK	70	29	26	20	145	72.5%
Rim left	2	2	2	0	6	3.0%
Rim right	13	4	1	3	21	10.5%
Rim top	11	7	4	2	24	12.0%
Rim Bottom	2	1	1	0	4	2.0%
Total	98	43	34	25	200	100.0%

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Error	OK	Obv	Rev	Both	Total	%
<i>Reverse</i>						
Rim OK	4	1	1	1	7	3.5%
Rim left	92	42	33	24	191	95.5%
Rim right	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rim top	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rim bottom	1	0	1	0	2	1.0%
Total	97	43	35	25	200	100.0%

There appears to be no correlation between the misalignments on the obverse to that occurring on the reverse of each coin. This is evidenced by 100% of those coins with no misalignment of the rim on the obverse having it on the reverse and this result confuses me.



Photo 10 – Doubling of Obverse rim bottom (350%)

There also appears to be no relationship between the doubling errors and the rim misalignment with 98 of the sample set having no doubling errors on either face but 193 of the 200 coins have a misalignment on the reverse rim.

I have seen this rim misalignment on some other 50 cent coins but not to the same degree as that on the 2001 coin. I can only surmise that this has occurred because of the way the planchet was held in the collar on the press during the 2001 minting process or that dies were not positioned correctly in the press. I strongly suspect the latter because of the number of occurrences, regularity and preciseness of the misalignment on the reverse.

Subsequent to the presentation of this paper to the September Meeting of the NAV, I met with Ian McConnelly at the Melbourne ANDA Fair. I discussed likely causes and that I was in the dark because the Royal Australian Mint (RAM) had failed to respond to three letters sent to them seeking information on both types of faults.

AUSTRALIA'S WORST COIN EVER STRUCK?

Ian agreed with the retooling theory for the doubling in the obverse and reverse fields but suggested that the rim doubling more than likely arose from a different problem. He had seen the problem on other coins and considered that it came from the high workload of the RAM. Because it produces coins for about a dozen other countries as well as medal-type objects for a number of commercial organisations, the presses are in constant use with various shape and size dies being fastened into the collars.

It is highly likely that this need for rapid changeover of die types allows dies to be locked in place in a less than perfect position. This then leads to the unusually large proportion of rim imperfections seen on this coin. It then becomes an issue of quality control. As these are coins of standard circulation quality for rapid movement through the community, it would appear that this practice is not considered a serious concern.

SUMMARY

This is, from any view, an extremely high percentage of errors, or at the least, poor quality control, given the normal quality of RAM products. This is not in accord with my observations and studies of other 50 cent mintages.

Unfortunately, despite three separate letters to the RAM, I have not had the courtesy of a reply from them.

Therefore, to date of publication, I am unable to assess and comment on the impact of the following factors:

- 1 number or turnover rate of the working dies for the 2001 Federation 50 cent general circulation coin;
- 2 what is the expected average run of a working die before retooling is required;
- 3 what was the average run of the 2001 Federation coin compared to the average run of other 50 cent mintages;
- 4 the cause of doubling on the coin being the result of retooling of the dies;
- 5 the variation in doubling the result of retooling of already retooled dies;
- 6 any other likely explanation for this variation.

And, I hope, why you will understand the reason behind my conferral of this dubious title on this widely circulating coin.

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