

A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR PUBLICATIONS

By Frank Robinson, NAV #713

The Numismatic Association of Victoria has had a publication called *The Australian Numismatist* since its very early days. Over the years it has undergone a number of changes and, in 2014, another change will commence.

THE EARLY JOURNAL

Although I haven't seen the very early issues, it appears that the first issue was in July 1946 and it was issued monthly. In 1963, the NAV's "year" was changed from July – June to January – December; this "extended" year (volume 17) saw 18 issues of the monthly publication that was usually referred to as the "journal".

The journal continued as a monthly publication until the end of 1966 (volume 20). From 1967 (volume 21) until 1974 (volume 28), there were only 11 issues per year, with no issue in January. Then from 1975 (volume 29) until 1980 (volume 34), there were only six issues per year with each issue being for two months.

Up until 1980, the journal carried reports of meetings as well as news items and short papers by members.

THE NEWSLETTER AND YEARLY JOURNAL

From 1981, a major change occurred with Council deciding to publish *The Australian Numismatist* twice yearly in June and December and this would contain numismatic articles only. In addition, there would be a quarterly newsletter which would be "circulated with news, forward syllabus, reports of meetings, etc".¹

The plan for two journals per year didn't last long – in 1982 it became an annual production. During the 1980s there were two extra issues – the first was in 1984 and contained a single paper titled "Non-Circulating Checks of Victoria" (by Len Henderson); the other was in 1988 as a Special Bicentenary Issue.

¹ *The Australian Numismatist Newsletter*, No 1, p1

THE AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST 2013

Meanwhile, the Newsletter has been issued as a quarterly publication from 1981 to 2013. Editors of the Newsletter have been Len Henderson (about 18 years), Marc Béoutis, Peter Hamilton (about 13 years), Frank Robinson, (one issue only) and Darren Burgess. As time progressed, the format changed from typed and duplicated to computer printed to coloured covers.

EDITORS OF THE JOURNAL

Editors of the Journal have also been few in number; writing in 1972 for the NAV's 25th anniversary, Ray Jewell stated "In 25 years the Australian Numismatist has only had 4 Editors. This is largely due to the position being held for 12 consecutive years by the late W.E. Curran."² Ed Philpotts was editor from 1965 (or earlier) to 1969 and was succeeded by Ray Jewell (1970 – 1972); I am uncertain who the other early editor was³.

After Ray, our editors have been Peter Wall (1973 – 1975, 1977 – 1978), Hans Ferdinand (1976), Len Henderson (1979), John Sharples (1980 – 1982), John Faringdon-Davis (1983 – 1984), Gillian Faringdon-Davis (1985 – 1991), Terry Pepperell (1992 – 1995), Marc Béoutis (1996 – 1999), Bill Xynos (2000), and Frank Robinson (2001 – 2013).

RECOMBINING OUR PUBLICATIONS

With effect from the beginning of 2014, these two publications will be recombined. The Newsletter will cease to exist. Thus this "bumper" issue is the last of the yearly journals.

The new publication will continue to be *The Australian Numismatist* and will be published quarterly. It will be an expansion of the current Newsletter and will contain numismatic papers and articles by members (as currently in the journal) in addition to the current content of the Newsletter.

Darren Burgess will be editor and will require papers and articles on a regular basis. The intended publication dates will be the first month of each season (ie March, June, September, and December). The intention is for the quarterly journal to be about double the size of the current Newsletter (ie about 48 pages). Lengthy papers will be spread over two (or more) editions if necessary.

² *The Australian Numismatist*, Vol 25, No 4, May 1971, p1

³ My records name a Mrs M B Anderson as being editor in 1961-62.