

# AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST



**1996**

## **GOLDEN JUBILEE ISSUE**

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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# **PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD**

## **NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA**

### **GOLDEN JUBILEE**

**1946 - 1996**

The present N.A.V. has a broken history dating back to 1914. The original club was the Victorian Numismatic Society which, in 1928, found that most of its members were more interested in history than numismatics. The club became affiliated with the Victorian Historical Society, a move that saved it as the Great Depression that followed would, no doubt, have wiped it out. In 1939, the VNS became dis-affiliated from the Royal Historical Society (Victoria) but World War II came along, and many of the members joined up. Numismatics in Victoria was kept alive from interstate with the formation of the Australian Association of Numismatists. It held no meetings but issued a casual Newsletter (Magazine) from South Australia. From that time, we have kept up friendly relations with collectors in that state. Post War, former members of the VNS and AAN started the present Association. The early interests were focused heavily on militaria. This was in 1946.

A change in emphasis came with an interest in Commemorative Medals - one part of this Journal is devoted to a history of the medals we have struck since 1949. There were no full-time coin dealers in Melbourne then but coins could be obtained from Second Hand Shops and from a few jewellers. Some members ordered coins direct from overseas Mints or dealers, and were thoughtful enough to order more than they needed so that fairly regular Tender Sales could be held. Early Meetings of the N.A.V. were held in the Detmold Building and at the Victorian Railways Institute before we moved to the Public Library and Museum. A section of this Journal is devoted to the early days of the Association. Although we were issuing medallions, most members were not buying them and a stock of over-issued medals caused the club to become almost bankrupt. The Association, for a number of reasons, sold these off cheaply and also sold its collection of donated coins and tokens as well as its Library. The selling

of these items, at reduced prices, annoyed many people and this incident too is recorded elsewhere in the description of our medals.

To advertise the club, displays were held at various sites, culminating in a very large display in the Lower Town Hall. This brought in new members, a few of whom are still with us; indeed we still have two original Foundation Members from 1946.

Decimal Change Over plans sparked interest in numismatics in general, and many people thought they could put together a collection from loose change before the old money disappeared. No thought was given to "quality" - it was just a matter of collecting by date. We benefited from this temporary boom, and many clubs were set up in a number of country towns as well as our own suburbs. Some of these have survived.

With this newer interest in Numismatics, the Victorian Council of Numismatic Societies was formed. The N.A.V., as older club, did not want to 'play big brother', and so, we did not take any senior part in its formation. We then found the VCNS had adopted a Constitution that was unacceptable to us and first decided not join - we finally joined it later. We have since dropped out as has a number of other clubs. It was felt that the VCNS placed far too much emphasis on its yearly Convention and not enough on ongoing inter-club activities. We wanted more contact with other clubs, including interstate contacts.

Whilst we are not a "social" club, we have got around on trips. We have gone to Sydney twice, Hobart twice, Adelaide twice (with another visit imminent), Bendigo, Ballarat, and more recently to Camperdown with its new (and active) club, and Warrnambool.

We are members of the Numismatic Association of Australia, the body that represents our hobby on a nation wide basis. It is made up of the senior club from each state. It produces a yearly Journal of worthwhile articles and, with more funds in hand, will further promote the knowledge of our hobby to all those interested, rather than catering to existing club members. We produce our own yearly Journal and a quarterly Newsletter which usually runs between 4 to 12 pages. The Journal contains a variety of articles, including some delivered as talks at our monthly meetings.

This issue of the Journal is a Special Souvenir Edition - our Golden Jubilee Issue - 1946 to 1996. While we can look back with pride on our unique past, we now need to turn to the future to ensure that our numismatic heritage is preserved and transmitted to future generations.

Trevor Davies  
President



# WHEN YOUR NUMBER COMES UP

By Gillian Faringdon-Davis, NAV913

The N.A.V. has been around for a very long time. Longer, in legal terms, than major countries such as India and Pakistan, which were formed only in 1947; certainly longer than most of the newly independent nations of the world. Yet, all this time, we have survived without taxation, parliamentary representation, or requiring visas from visitors. We must be doing something right.

I can now reveal that the secret is in the sacred numbers. Outsiders may not realise that, upon initiation, N.A.V. members are allotted a sacred number which they keep for life. These are awarded at a formal ceremony, before the older initiates and wise men (sorry! persons). If someone is driven, or exiles himself, from the community, the number itself dies: it is never ever allocated to another initiate.

The elders may, if so moved by the spirits, reveal their numbers to visitors in the following way.

"Nice to meet you. New member? Lovely! Well, I was once, too. I'm a 500 number, you know".

"Uh?" (Thinks of Tattslotto numbers, card games, or plain senility) "A 500 number, that's nice".

"Of course, we're into four figures now".

(Retreats, looking for someone who speaks English)

In time, the visitor becomes one of us and learns the code of the sacred numbers. Once learnt, the code is never forgotten. If a member becomes sick or dies, the ultimate accolade is awarded: "He had a very low number, you know".

Even within the clan there is a certain amount of snobbery. For instance, my husband and I qualified at the same time. For alphabetical reasons, I was issued the lower number, by one. It was the clincher in numismatic disputes. "I saw it first, and anyway, don't forget I'm number 913!"

913 is nothing, absolutely nothing, compared to 213 or 313. But it is pretty high on the totem pole compared to 1013 or 1113; and just as in the Army one finds more class consciousness among wives of corporals than one does among the wives of captains, so a handful of numbers among the acolytes means more than a hundred among the elders.

So when we celebrate our official half-century, I shall drink a toast: "May the numbers of the low numbers never come up, and the high numbers, may their tribe increase".



N° 323 (P. Wall) with N° 913 and N° 914  
at the V.C.N.S. Convention 19-8-1990



# OUR OWN MEDALS

by Len Henderson, NAV 409

Let me first start by mentioning several medals that have been attributed to our Association but are not ours. The Numismatic Association was formed in May 1946. It was the lineal descendant of two earlier groups - the Victorian Numismatic Society and a branch of the Association of Australian Numismatists. The first of these groups was formed in 1914 and lasted until 1931. By then it was down to only a dozen or so members, most of whom were more interested in Australian history and medals than in world numismatics. It amalgamated with the Royal Victorian Historical Society as a sub-group. This union lasted until 1939 when it broke away with a change in membership and emphasis on collecting habits. Just as it thought it was reforming, World War II broke out and the majority of members joined up. Numismatics in Victoria and in other states, was kept alive by the actions of James Hunt Deacon in South Australia who formed the Association of Australian Numismatists. This organisation obviously could not meet at any central place and any communication was by means of an intermittent "journal" - I use that term rather loosely. Jim Hunt Deacon was a pedant who established files on all those who wrote to him, and you were likely to get back a letter pointing out your grammatical errors - 'there should have been a comma after such and such a word - you ended a sentence with a preposition - your opinion was wrong because it did not agree with his'. This state lasted through the war-time years.

In May 1946, discharged servicemen and women, and others, formed the present N.A.V. The first meetings were held in the Railway Institute Building in Flinders Street and also in the Victorian Cricket Association rooms which then were at the corner of Flinders Street and Exhibition Street. Other meetings were held in the Detmold Building, 321 Collins Street. It was only when we moved to the Science Museum that we settled into a stable home which lasted for over thirty five years.

In these early years we did not produce any medals, but two are attributed to us. They are the Bert Hinkler medal of 1928 (listed in Carlisle as 1928/1) and the Charles Kingsford-Smith medal of 1935 (Carlisle 1935/6).

As both of these medals commemorate someone associated with Queensland, I feel sure there is scope for research on the real issuers.

The first medal issued by our club was to honour the first copper token in Australia - the Annand, Smith & Co<sup>o</sup> Family Grocers piece which was a genuine anniversary piece that came out in 1949.

## N<sup>o</sup> 1 ANNAND, SMITH & Co

1949



Designer	Roy Farman
Die Sinkers	Stokes & Sons, Melbourne
Metal	Oxidised Copper
Size	42 mm
Number Struck	100 - not numbered
Release Price	6/-

Struck to commemorate the Centenary of issue of the first copper token in Australia. There are seven known trial strikes which represent the various stages of manufacture (1) the blank, (2) the blank with rims, (3) 1st striking, (4) 2nd striking, (5) 3rd striking, (6) polished silver finish, (7) final oxidisation.



Designer	Andor Meszaros
Die Sinkers	Pinches & Co, London
Metal	Bronze
Size	55 mm
Number Struck	102 - not numbered
Release Price	50/-

This medal was struck to commemorate the Jubilee of Federation, and the Centenary of Victoria's Separation from New South Wales. Two medallions were retained by the artist/designer. The reverse design was the Official Medallion design used with permission.



Designer	Stokes & Sons, Melbourne
Die Sinkers	Stokes & Sons, Melbourne
Metal	Sterling Silver Oxidised Silver Bronze
Size	38 mm
Number Struck	100 (all metals)
Release Price	27/6 Sterling Silver 15/- Oxidised Silver 10/- Bronze

Total medals issued 100, but number for each metal was not recorded. All medals are individually numbered. There is known to exist a trial strike in lead for both obverse and reverse (that is two separate trials). There is also a brass striking of the head of the Queen.

The Obverse die was used again to strike the 1977 Silver Jubilee of Elizabeth II & 500th Meeting of the N.A.V. (N° 18).



Designer	Stokes & Sons, Melbourne	
Die Sinkers	Stokes & Sons, Melbourne	
Metal	Sterling Silver Oxidised Bronze	
Size	38 mm	
Number Struck	40	Sterling Silver (N° 1 to 40)
	60	Oxidised Bronze (N° 41 to 100)
Release Price	45/-	Sterling Silver
	27/6	Oxidised Bronze

All medals are individually numbered. The obverse design is based on an earlier design by Alfred Chitty which in turn was based on a print by T. S. Gill. This medal did not sell very well and the Council were forced into buying a large proportion of them themselves. These were slowly sold off over the years. It is thought that three original lead strikes of the obverse and reverse exist. In May 1955, the Association presented one of the medals to the Belgian Consul in Victoria because they heard there was a Railways Museum in Brussels; no thought was given to presenting one to our own Victorian Railways.



Designer	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne	
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne	
Metal	Oxidised Silver Oxidised Bronze	
Size	38 mm	
Number Struck	60	Oxidised Silver (N° 1 to 60)
	40	Oxidised Bronze (N° 61 to 100)
Release Price	50/-	Oxidised Silver
	25/-	Oxidised Bronze

All medals are individually numbered. The sub-Committee kept the design secret as they wanted to surprise us; they certainly did, as an error was made with the head of Bacchus being used instead of the head of Zeus. Seven lead strikes are known. In an attempt to make sure they sold, a small number were sold through three retail outlets. Many more could have been sold if they had been struck. The sale of medals this way caused some comment that, "Commercialism had reared its ugly head" (!) The dies were given to the Victorian National Art Gallery, and were received by E. Wodack on behalf of Eric Westbrook, in July 1957. Those who had complained about the commercial sale of our medals were the same ones who wanted us to produce more but were not buying them.

For various reasons it was decided to sell off the collection of our own medals, other donated medals, proof coins and other coins. It was realised that only about one third of our members were buying our own medals and we had over-expended in making them. The collection was auctioned in October 1958, and realised £104/19/6 (\$ 209.95). We then started buying them back again and have added them to the collection with other medals, lead trial strikes, coins and donated pieces.

## N° 6 GENERAL POST OFFICE

1959



Designer	W. E. Curran	
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne	
Metal	Oxidised Silver Bronze	
Size	38 mm	
Number Struck	30	Oxidised Silver (N° 41 to 70)
	40	Bronze (N° 1 to 40)
Release Price	50/-	Oxidised Silver
	25/-	Bronze

All medals are individually numbered. An official presentation of a bronze medallion was made to the Postal Department. A lead trial strike exists showing both obverse and reverse.



Designer	W. E. Curran	
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne	
Metal	Sterling Silver	
	Gilt Bronze	
	Bronze	
Size	38 mm	
Number Struck	30	Sterling Silver (N° 1 to 30)
	30	Gilt Bronze (N° 31 to 60)
	40	Bronze (N° 61 to 100)
Release Price	47/6	Sterling Silver
	27/6	Gilt Bronze
	25/-	Bronze

All medals are individually numbered. Trial lead strikes exist for both obverse and reverse. The Melbourne City Council struck 100 bronze medallions using our obverse. The reverse of the M.C.C. medallion was one they designed for presentation to Councillors, Institutions and for Awards to school-children. One of our silver medallions was presented to the Melbourne City Council and was accepted by Councillor Solly, who in return presented one of the M.C.C. Medallions to us on 18th August 1960. We do not know its present whereabouts.



Designer	W. E. Curran	
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne	
Metal	Sterling Silver	
	Bronze	
Size	38 mm	
Number Struck	50	Sterling Silver (N° 1 to 50)
	50	Bronze (N° 51 to 100)
Release Price	52/6	Sterling Silver
	30/-	Bronze

All medals are individually numbered. There is known to exist two trial strikes, each of the obverse and reverse. The "Pidgin English" on the reverse has been criticised as being incorrect.



Designer	Ray Jewell
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne
Metal	Oxidised Silver
Size	38 mm
Number Struck	393
Release Price	50/-

Originally, we were going to have 100 pieces struck but this was increased by 200, and then a further 93. This was the first medal we ever struck which was completely pre-sold before the final striking; this accounts for the odd number we finally issued. There exists a trial strike of the obverse and a separate one for the reverse. There is also a mis-strike in silver as the next stage in oxidisation was never completed.



Designer	Ray Jewell
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne
Metal	Guilded Copper
Size	28 mm
Number Struck	2037 (not numbered)
Release Price	3/-

This brass piece was struck as a souvenir for sale at the Lower Town Hall for Exhibition on 26th, 27th and 28th October 1964. Several hundred of these were still in stock ten years later and they gradually disappeared, mostly at Coin Fairs; others unknown.



Designer	NAV Council	
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne	
Metal	Oxidised Silver	
	Bronze	
Size	38 mm	
Number Struck	200	Oxidised Silver (N° 1 to 200)
	100	Bronze (N° 201 to 300)
Release Price	52/6	Oxidised Silver
	30/-	Bronze

All medals are individually numbered. There exists a trial strike in lead showing both obverse and reverse. The obverse design is copied from the statue outside the Public Library and Science Museum. The uniform on this statue is historically wrong. A pair of these medals was presented to President Lyndon Baines Johnson of the USA on his visit to Melbourne in October 1966.

It was decided in Council that a special series of medals be struck to honour noted feats of exploration. This series would not necessarily be commemorative, which proved to be an unfortunate mistake. The first medal issued was to honour Captain James Cook, and as this was issued in 1967, three years before the bicentenary of his discovery of the east coast, it had only a limited appeal. Consequently, when the bicentenary did come, we could not issue another medal on the same theme, "It would not be ethical". We lost the opportunity to "cash in" on the big sales that various commercial firms and banks had. If we had done so, we would have made enough money to finance our future medal productions. In early 1969, the Council decided that the series should consist of twelve medals; only four were struck. This series was in a two inch diameter size instead of our usual inch and a half. With grand plans for this series, we had made a large number of lettered boxes to hold the medals, either as pairs or individual examples. We still have these boxes which are useless for any other purpose.



Designer	Harold Higson	
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne	
Metal	Silver	
	Bronze	
Size	50 mm	
Number Struck	100	Silver
	200	Bronze
Release Price	\$6.75	Silver
	\$4.00	Bronze

All medals are individually numbered. Our three living Honorary Life Members at the time were each presented with a silver medal. Bronze medals were presented to the Museum of Arts & Science at Ultimo, NSW and to the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand. Two medals (a matching pair) were sold for \$4.00 (the cost of packing and Posting with Insurance) to the Captain Cook Landing Place Museum Trust in NSW. Two reverse and one obverse trial strikes in lead were in our Archives. A Gilt piece and an Oxidised Silver (on bronze) came up in a Melbourne auction in 1993; we have never issued these finishes.



Designer	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne	
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne	
Metal	Sterling Silver	
	Bronze	
Size	50 mm	
Number Struck	160	Sterling Silver
	160	Bronze
Release Price	\$8.00	Sterling Silver
	\$4.00	Bronze

All medals are individually numbered. This is the only medal of ours where the artist's plaster cast still exists. A bronze medal was presented to Rod Searle for his help in information about the ships. Two lead strikes of the obverse and reverse were in our Archives but went astray. A Gilt piece and a Polished bronze piece appeared in a Spink Auction in 1992; we have never produced them. A Gilded piece appeared in 1993; this was not our production either.



Designer	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne	
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne	
Metal	Sterling Silver	
	Copper with Bronze Toning	
Size	50 mm	
Number Struck	100	Sterling Silver
	150	Copper with Bronze Toning
Release Price	\$15.50	Sterling Silver
	\$5.50	Copper with Bronze Toning

All medals are individually numbered. It was originally intended that 320 medals would be struck at the following figures:

Sterling Silver	30
Copper with Silver Oxidising	130
Copper with Bronze Toning	160

As we were still having difficulty in selling our previous medals, these figures were modified to just the two metals shown above. Silver and Bronze medals were presented to the living senior members of the Oxley family. There is an unnumbered bronze strike as well as lead pulls of the obverse and the reverse.

**N° 15 GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE ENGLAND /**  
**AUSTRALIA FIRST FLIGHT**

**1969**



Designer	See note
Die Sinkers	Stokes & Sons, Melbourne
Metal	Copper, Bronze Relieved
Size	50 mm
Number Struck	Not more than 300 (!)
Release Price	\$2.25

All medallions are individually numbered. We have no record of just how many were struck but it was far in excess of the number of members we had. Once again, although we were having difficulty in selling our own medallions to our members, and bearing in mind that we were not a business, we still had made far more pieces than we could sell. Also the price of different medallions had fluctuated greatly; to control the price, the obverse die was made available to us under licence and is the same as that for the Royal Aero Club. The reverse die, a simple inscription, was composed by Ray Jewell. The first cased medallion was presented to B. J. Videon of the Military Historical Society who put on a display of medals at our meeting in December.



Designer	See note	
Die Sinkers	N. Olsen, Adelaide	
Metal	Sterling Silver Copper with Bronze Toning	
Size	50 mm	
Number Struck	75	Sterling Silver
	125	Copper with Bronze Toning
Release Price	\$15.50	Sterling Silver
	\$5.00	Copper with Bronze Toning

All medals are individually numbered. One lead strike exists of the obverse and reverse together; it was in our Archives but was lost. With the obverse of the medal, we made exactly the same mistake as the PMG and everyone else connected with the Famous Explorers on Postage Stamps: we used a portrait of Sturt's father in mistake for the son's. The only one of note to use the correct portrait was a wine firm in the Murray River Valley. The reverse inscription was composed by Ray Jewell.

This was the fourth medal in our Explorer Series. The other proposed medals were to have been: Blaxland, Wentworth & Lawson; Flinders; Mitchell; Cunningham; Eyre; Stuart; Forrest; Mawson. It is now interesting to conjecture the famous men left off this list. Only one fifth of our members were actually buying the series, and because of the large sums of

money tied-up in the project, it was decided to discontinue the series in May 1973. We were forced into the position of having to sell a back-log of forty four medals at below initial price to clear them. This led to the wild, and false, accusation that members of the Council were receiving a commission for selling the medals cheaply.

**N° 17 SILVER JUBILEE OF THE N.A.V.**

**1971**



Designer	See note
Die Sinkers	Stokes & Sons, Melbourne
Metal	Bronze, Silvered
Size	30 mm
Number Struck	150
Release Price	\$2.50

All medals are individually numbered. The obverse die, a veiled head of Queen Victoria, was the property of Stokes & Sons, and was first used by Stokes & Martin in 1885. The reverse die bore an appropriate inscription and was the work of Ray Jewell.

**N° 18 SILVER JUBILEE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1977**  
**& 500TH MEETING OF N.A.V.**



Designer	See note
Die Sinkers	Stokes & Sons, Melbourne
Metal	Silver, vapour blasted
Size	38 mm
Number Struck	110
Release Price	\$8

All medals are individually numbered. The obverse was our own die made for the Coronation medallion and struck for us by Stokes & Sons 25 years earlier (N° 3). The reverse inscription was composed by Ray Jewell and Mrs. Betty Turvey. One of these medals was sent to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It was originally hoped that we could use a die from the "Kangaroo Office". At the last moment Stokes objected to the use of this rare die because of some publicity in the daily papers about the then current value of the Kangaroo Office Tokens. I bought a gilt piece from an auction in 1993 which is not a "silver" jubilee finish.

Once again it was found that we had money tied up in unsold medals. As members had not bought them at the initial issue price, we advertised them at a slightly increased price to encourage buyers. We recommended that members buy them to complete their collections:

1969 First Flight England to Australia was offered at	\$6.00
1970 Charles Sturt in the Explorer series	\$8.00
1977 Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee (our 500th Meeting)	\$8.00
1964 Melbourne Town Hall Exhibition medalet	\$0.50

**N° 19 CAPTAIN COOK PLAQUE COMMEMORATING 1979**  
**THE BICENTENARY OF HIS DEATH**



Designer	Terry Pepperell & Betty Turvey
Die Sinkers	Stokes & Sons, Melbourne
Metal	Bronzed Copper
Size	50 x 38 mm
Number Struck	180
Release Price	\$20

This medal could not be numbered because of its rectangular shape. Separate obverse and reverse trial strikes in lead exist of the early work, as well as a double-sided lead strike of the modified design. Because of the high price of silver at the time and of technical striking difficulties, none were struck in that metal.

On the 14th of February, exactly 200 years to the day of his death, the first of these medals was presented to Councillor Ian Stewart of the Melbourne City Council, outside Captain Cook's Cottage in the Fitzroy Gardens. The daily papers covered this event, but all of this publicity was ephemeral. At another ceremony held by the Royal Victorian Historical Society, I made a presentation to Lord Creythorne who was here on a Lecture Tour on behalf of the Captain Cook Museum at Whitby in England. An oxidised silver

and a gilt piece were in the "Spink" sale in 1992; these were not produced by us.

**N° 20 CENTENARY OF THE 1880-81 MELBOURNE  
1980 INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION**



Designer	Terry Pepperell	
Die Sinkers	Stokes & Sons, Melbourne	
Metal	Sterling Silver	
	Oxidised Copper	
Size	50 mm	
Number Struck	26	Sterling Silver
	150	Oxidised Copper
Release Prices	\$125	Sterling Silver
	\$20	Oxidised Copper

This is commonly known as the Melbourne Exhibition Building Medal. We considered issuing it in 18 and 9 carat gold if we received any such orders, but none came in. The medal, as finally issued, was slightly different from the original design that appeared in the advertising pamphlet, the lettering being from punches used about 100 years before.

**N° 21 ROYAL MARRIAGE OF HRH PRINCE  
CHARLES & LADY DIANA SPENCER**

**1981**



Designer	Terry Pepperell	
Die Sinkers	Stokes & Sons, Melbourne	
Metal	Sterling Silver, Gold Plated	
	Sterling Silver	
	Oxidised Copper	
Size	50 mm	
Number Struck	32	Sterling Silver, Gold Plated
	40	Sterling Silver
	200	Oxidised Copper
Release Price	\$150	Sterling Silver, Gold Plated
	\$125	Sterling Silver
	\$20	Oxidised Copper

The issued medal was slightly different from the advertised design.  
Privately plated specimens exist.



Designer	Terry Pepperell	
Die Sinkers	Hafner Mint, Eltham	
Metal	22 ct Gold (weight 66.9 gm) 9 ct Gold (weight 60.0 gm) Sterling Silver, Gilded Sterling Silver Florentine Finish Oxidised Copper	
Size	50 mm	
Number Struck	1	22 ct Gold
	6	9 ct Gold
	10	Sterling Silver, Gilded
	35	Sterling Silver
	80	Florentine Finish
	80	Oxidised Copper
Release Price	\$1225	22 ct Gold
	\$550	9 ct Gold
	\$90	Sterling Silver, Gilded
	\$75	Sterling Silver
	\$20	Florentine Finish
	\$20	Oxidised Copper

The reverse shows the Victorian Coat of Arms surmounted by the State flag. The reverse shows the three most original emblems of the state: Yellow Helmeted Honeyeater, Pink Heath and Leadbeater's Possum. Because the buyer of the gold pieces wanted his purchase kept secret, even the N.A.V. Council were not informed of their existence for six years. With previous issues we had offered gold pieces (Price on Application) but none had ever been requested.

## N° 23 HALLEY'S COMET

1986



Designer	Terry Pepperell	
Die Sinkers	Hafner Mint, Eltham	
Metal	18 ct Gold	
	Sterling Silver	
	Copper, 22 ct Gold Plated	
	Bronze (Olympic Finish)	
	Copper	
Size	64 mm	
Number Struck	1	18 ct Gold
	25	Sterling Silver
	35	Copper, 22 ct Gold Plated
	89	Bronze (Olympic Finish)
	50	Copper

Release Price	\$2850	18 ct Gold
	\$115	Sterling Silver
	\$35	Copper, 22 ct Gold Plated
	\$25	Bronze (Olympic Finish)
	\$25	Copper

As the comet only comes around every 76 years, it was felt fitting to have a calendar on the reverse. The design of a calendar had been thought of before the issue of this particular piece and was considered for our Sesquicentennial medal, and would have been used if we had brought it out earlier. Such a calendar comes around every nineteen years. This was our first attempt at a large size medal (64 mm) instead of our usual 30 mm and 51 mm. A mistake was made in the Zodiac in the obverse design, where Scorpio was shown upside down; it must have been taken from an illustration of the Northern Hemisphere heavens. A late thought that came to one of us was that, of all the known orbits of the comet when it has neared the Earth, this was the first time we have sent out satellites to meet it. This would have been a suitable addition to the design. In any case the sightings of the comet were unremarkable and the medal came out late. The initial plan was "not to exceed 250". Thankfully we did not invest in this number.



Designer	Terry Pepperell	
Die Sinkers	Hafner Mint, Eltham	
Metal	18 ct Gold	
	Sterling Silver	
	Copper, 22 ct Gold Plated	
	Copper	
	Florentine Finish	
Size	68 x 40 mm	
Number Struck	1	18 ct Gold
	23	Sterling Silver
	65	Copper, 22 ct Gold Plated
	65	Copper
	100	Florentine Finish
Release Price	\$3120	18 ct Gold
	\$165	Sterling Silver
	\$35	Copper, 22 ct Gold Plated
	\$26	Copper
	\$26	Florentine Finish

We struck the gold and sterling silver to order. The medal is oval and measures 68 x 40 mm. Several designs were submitted for this medal but finally we chose the Landing at Sydney Cove. Two other issuers also chose an oval plaque for their medals.

**N° 25 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDING**  
**AT ANZAC COVE**

**1990**



Designer	Terry Pepperell	
Die Sinkers	Hafner Mint, Eltham	
Metal	18 ct Gold	
	Sterling Silver	
	Copper, 22 ct Gold Plated	
	Florentine Finish	
Size	50 mm	
Number Struck	1	18 ct Gold
	18	Sterling Silver
	100	Copper, 22 ct Gold Plated
	200	Florentine Finish
Release Price	\$2875	18 ct Gold
	\$120	Sterling Silver
	\$35	Copper, 22 ct Gold Plated
	\$25	Florentine Finish

Privately plated specimens exist. Emil Hafner, of Eltham, was so enthused by this idea that he struck a further 125 medals in plain copper. These were for presentation to surviving Veterans. Fifty

nine were given to the Veterans who made the pilgrimage to Anzac Cove, and since then a few have been given to others who did not go. The Department of Veteran's Affairs (formerly the Repatriation Department) would not give out the names of survivors. We have presented a few to various ex-service clubs such as the RSL and the Australian Legion.

The well-known picture of "Simpson and his donkey" popularised by the Reverend Sir Irving Benson has been found to be from a photo of a Lieutenant Henderson in the New Zealand Army. The saddle and bridle used by "Simpson" (real name Kirkpatrick) was taken to India where it is in a War Museum.

It was only after this that members of the Council found out we had been issuing medals in gold. We were told that "the buyers did not want it known", and this was kept secret even from the Executive. Ten gold medals had been issued up to this time. One is in our own collection even though they were supposed to be "struck to order with payment in advance".



Designer	Terry Pepperell	
Die Sinkers	Hafner Mint, Eltham	
Metal	18 ct Gold 9 ct Gold Sterling Silver Gilded Bronze	
Size	50 mm	
Number Struck	1	18 ct Gold
	3	9 ct Gold
	19	Sterling Silver
	36	Gilded Bronze
Release Price	\$1100	18 ct Gold
	\$650	9 ct Gold
	\$70	Sterling Silver
	\$25	Gilded Bronze

This medal, not numbered, was strictly struck to order and is our rarest type. Gold was issued in a green presentation box, Silver in a blue drawstring bag, and Gilt Bronze in a burgundy drawstring bag. People who picked up their specimens at the Golden Jubilee Meeting also received a special Commemorative Certificate.

Because of doubt about just how many of our medals had been struck over the years, three of the Executive went to the Hafner Mint and received the correct figures which included late strikes.

**N° M1 MEMBERSHIP BADGE - FIRST TYPE 1969**

Designer	n/a
Die Sinkers	Pinches & Co, London
Metal	Gilt Copper, Blue Enamel Centre
Size	17 mm
Number Struck	n/a
Release Price	\$0.60

A miniature of the Port Phillip tokens. It also exists as tie-bar (\$0.75) and as cuff-links (\$1.20). At the 500th meeting, some special guests and others were presented with the same badge but enameled brown set into a teaspoon! This die finally broke.

**N° M2 MEMBERSHIP BADGE - SECOND TYPE**

Designer	n/a
Die Sinkers	Hafner Mint, Eltham
Metal	Olympic Bronze
Size	17 mm
Number Struck	n/a

All badges, numbered with the member's own number, are issued free with membership. This die has also been used to prepare another die with a small blank panel below for engraving (see M5: 25 Year Continuous Membership & M6: 50 Year Continuous Membership badges).

**N° M3 15 YEAR MEMBERSHIP BADGE - FIRST TYPE 1977**

Designer	Terry Pepperell
Die Sinkers	Hans Ferdinand
Metal	Silver
Size	14 mm (approximately)
Number Struck	50

This badge was engraved and struck in the age-old fashion - cut into a metal block 'back to front' and struck with a hand held hammer into a silver ingot by Hans Ferdinand (NAV 836), from a drawing by Terry Pepperell of an ancient Greek coin (see "*The Striking of the 15 Year Continuous Membership Badge*" page 50). The first badges were presented at the 1977 Christmas Meeting to the 37 members then eligible. Three lead strikes exist.

Hans Ferdinand was awarded the Max Stern Trophy in 1978 for his discourse into the Ancient Methods of Coinage based on his research and experience in the ancient ways of manually minting coins.

**N° M4 15 YEAR MEMBERSHIP BADGE - 2ND TYPE 1983**

Designer	Terry Pepperell
Die Sinkers	Hans Ferdinand
Metal	Silver
Size	14 mm (approximately)
Number Struck	50

The original die got lost and Hans obligingly cut this new die.

**N° M5 25 YEAR CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP BADGE**

Designer	n/a
Die Sinkers	Hafner Mint, Eltham
Metal	Gilt Copper, Blue Enamelled Centre
Size	17 mm
Number Struck	50

This die was prepared using the one for the current Membership Badge (M2). The small panel is engraved "25" and enameled a mid-blue colour.

## **N° M6 50 YEAR CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP BADGE**

Designer	n/a
Die Sinkers	Hafner Mint, Eltham
Metal	Gilt Copper, Blue Enamelled Centre
Size	17 mm
Number Issued	2

Identical to the 25 Year badge, but for the small panel engraved "50" and enameled a red colour. The first badges were presented at the Golden Jubilee Meeting on 17 May 1996 to the 2 foundation members still with us.

## **N° A1 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP & AWARD OF MERIT**

Designer	Ray Jewell
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne
Metal	Copper, Dark Blue Enamelled Circlet
Size	50 mm
Number Awarded	9

The N.A.V.'s most prestigious Award, which was combined in 1982, started as an Honour to reward "Outstanding and Loyal Service to Numismatics". The early recipients of Life Membership were W. E. (Bill) Curran, ED, Rev. (The Padre) Charles Bremer, ED, Fritz Schafer, James Hunt Deacon and Edward (Ted) Kennedy.

Bill Curran was made a Life Member in July 1959, but renounced all membership with the Association in February 1964 because we accepted dealers in our ranks.

Padre Bremer was a member of the pre-war Victorian Numismatic Society, and was one of those instrumental in starting the present N.A.V. in May 1946.

Fritz Schafer was also a member of the earlier V.N.S. and Numismatist at the National Gallery & Science Museum of Victoria.

Jim Hunt Deacon was never a member of the N.A.V. but was made an Honorary Member because he was the one who kept numismatics alive in Victoria during the wartime years of 1939 to 1946. He produced an

occasional magazine, the Association of Australian Numismatists, which was an attempt to form, at an unpropitious time, a national organization.

Ted Kennedy occupied many positions on our Council as President, Treasurer and Secretary.

The Award of Merit was instituted in 1968 for “outstanding and loyal service”.

The recipients of the Award of Merit have been

Howard Jenkins	1969
Ed (Ted) Philpotts	1971
Ray Jewell	1973
Jessica Simon, BEM	1979
Betty Turvey	1986
Terry Pepperell	1989
Hans Prange	1992
Don Wicks	1994
John Chapman	1995

The Award of Merit now carries with it Honorary Life Membership, and the N.A.V. is probably the first numismatic body to issue a medal for this reason.

## **N° A2 PAST PRESIDENT MEDAL - FIRST TYPE**

Designer	Stokes & Sons, Melbourne
Die Sinkers	Stokes & Sons, Melbourne
Metal	Bronze
Size	50 mm
Number Awarded	18

It has been customary to present retiring Presidents with a medal as a mark of appreciation for their services. Although first discussed in 1952, this Award was not presented until 1957. For many years, it was a very handsome "stock" medal struck by Stokes, and engraved with the recipient's details on the reverse. There should be only 17 of these medals issued, but 18 are known. Mr. Phil Downie is thought to be the last person to receive this medal.

### **N° A3 PAST PRESIDENT MEDAL - SECOND TYPE**

Designer	Ray Jewell
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne
Metal	Copper, Gold Gilt
Size	50 mm
Number Awarded	8

Since 1979, struck from the same dies as the Award of Merit; it is usually engraved with the recipient's name and gold plated. However, in a couple of occasions, it has been awarded unplated - in plain copper. It is thought that the enameled bronze version of the Award of Merit was used once.

### **N° A4 COUNCIL AWARD**

Designer	Ray Jewell
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne
Metal	Olympic Bronze
Size	50 mm
Number Awarded	2

This Award, like all the others, is essentially "For Service". Of recent years, it has only been given to a member not of the Council. It does not have to be given each year, but only when someone is considered deserving it. It is made on the decision of the Council.

Various items have been used as award: cups, tankards, books, etc. Since 1994, a medal has been awarded (same dies as the Award of Merit but struck in Olympic Bronze finish).

1969	Bob Hammon	1978	<i>Not Awarded</i>
1970	Jean Harwood	1979	Peter Wall
1971	E. Jones	1980	Bob Hammon
1972	Allan Collis	1981	John O'Riley
1973	<i>Not Awarded</i>	1982	<i>Unknown</i>
1974	<i>Not Awarded</i>	1983	<i>Unknown</i>
1975	Stan Church	1984	John Chapman
1976	Frank Heard	1985	Ron Stewart
1977	John Gartner	1986	<i>Not Awarded</i>
1987	Tom Howell	1992	<i>Not Awarded</i>
1988	Tom Howell	1993	Bob Hammon

1989	John O'Riley	1994	Joan Henderson
1990	Len Henderson	1995	John O'Riley
1991	G. Faringdon-Davis		

**N° A5 PRIZE MEDAL - VICTORIAN COUNCIL OF 1983**  
**NUMISMATIC SOCIETIES - FIRST TYPE**

Designer	Ray Jewell
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne
Metal	Copper
Size	50 mm
Number Awarded	n/a

In 1983, the N.A.V. hosted the V.C.N.S. Convention which was held at Kilmore. The dies of the Award of Merit medal were used for striking plain copper medals. These were issued blank and were inscribed at the recipient's expense.

**N° A6 PRIZE MEDAL - VICTORIAN COUNCIL OF**  
**NUMISMATIC SOCIETIES - SECOND TYPE**

Designer	After Ray Jewell
Die Sinkers	K. G. Luke & Sons, Melbourne
Metal	Olympic Bronze
Size	38 mm
Number Awarded	n/a

The N.A.V. was host society again in 1986 in Essendon, and in 1990, this time at the Dallas Brooks Hall. A special obverse die was made from a strike from the centre part of the Award of Merit die with a row of beading surrounding the rim, for use with the common prize die of the V.C.N.S. Prize Medal reverse.

**N° A7 MAX STERN TROPHY****1967**

Designer	n/a
Die Sinkers	n/a
Metal	Sterling Silver
Size	500 mm approximately

This Award, to honour the best paper delivered by a member of the Association each year, is in the form of a large cup. It is a Perpetual Trophy; the winner holds it for one year before passing it to the next winner. A miniature of the Trophy is kept by the recipient. This large silver cup was given by Max Stern, the well-known and highly respected stamp and coin dealer, who presented the first award in 1967. Max has been a member of the Association for thirty years but rarely attends the meetings due to other commitments.

The Winners since 1967 have been:

1967	Frank Heard	<i>Trade Dollars of the Orient</i>
1968	John Sharples	<i>An Introduction to Greek Coins</i>
1969	John Dawes	<i>John Oxley - Explorer</i>
1970	Allan Collis	<i>Collector or Numismatist?</i>
1971	John Dawes	<i>Methods of Australian Research</i>
1972	Jeff Turnbull	<i>Anglo-Saxon Coinage</i>
1973	Howard Jenkins	<i>The Case for Medal Collecting</i>
1974	Dr Percy Zerman	<i>The Coinage of Judea</i>
1975	Len Henderson	<i>A Seat on the Aisle (Theatre Tickets)</i>
1976	Jack Clay	<i>Biblical Prophecies and Numismatics</i>
1977	Tom May	<i>Benedetto Pistrucchi</i>
1978	Hans Ferdinand	<i>Ancient Coinage Methods</i>
1979	J. Faringdon-Davis	<i>Waterloo</i>
1980	Peter Wall	<i>Alexandrian/Ptolemaic Coinage</i>
1981	Terry Pepperell	<i>Coinage of Ireland</i>
1982	Dr John Bisby	<i>Medals of Napoleon</i>
1983	Stephen Prior	<i>Inflationary Banknotes</i>
1984	Tom May	<i>Coins from Shipwrecks</i>
1985	Tom May	<i>More than a Token Interest</i>
1986	Yesha Taub	<i>Banknotes of Israel</i>
1987	Hans Prange	<i>The Order of St John</i>
1988	Ray Jewell	<i>"This Dealer Collects"</i>
1989	John Chapman	<i>Australian Historical Medals</i>
1990	Terry Pepperell	<i>ANZAC</i>
1991	Tom May	<i>Denarii of the Roman Republic</i>
1992	G. Faringdon-Davis	<i>"I'm From the Government"</i>
1993	Terry Pepperell	<i>On the Designing of Medals</i>
1994	John Chapman	<i>Disaster Numismatics</i>
1995	Ian Armstrong	<i>E. W. Cole and his Medals</i>

It is unfortunate that so many of the papers delivered at our meetings have never been preserved in the Archives.

## **N° A8 STAN CHURCH MEMORIAL TROPHY**

Designer	Terry Pepperell
Metal	Copper on Wood
Size	185 x 280 mm
Number Awarded	7

This Award is in the form of a plaque made individually, inscribed with the recipient's name. When Stan Church (Stanislav Churchia) was dying, he wrote his will in which he left the N.A.V. \$1,000 for the "Best Paper/Lecture Delivered in a Year". His solicitor did not know that we already had an Award for this purpose. When the will was proved, we had to get the wording altered or give up the bequest. We were able to get the meaning changed so that it is awarded "For Original Research" and that it did not have to be made each year, but only when fitting.

The recipients of this Memorial Award have been

Gillian Faringdon-Davis  
Len Henderson  
Ken Marshall  
Tom May  
Roger Mitchell  
Geoff Thomas  
Reg Williams

As this Award is only made infrequently, and so that it is not forgotten, it must be brought up in Council every few years, even if it is not going to be awarded.

## N° T1 SUPPER TOKEN



Designer	Terry Pepperell
Die Sinkers	n/a
Metal	White Cardboard
Size	40 mm
Number Issued	n/a

Black ink

Obv: 2 mm thick. two circles (36mm [.4] and 34 mm [.1]) inside: 8' to 4' NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA (2.5 mm). inside above ctr: NAV (5 x 17mm, straight). Underneath, written by hand: Super / Supper (straight). Below: 20c

Rev: in red ball point individual token n° (Frank's n°18)



# THE STRIKING OF THE 15 YEAR CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP BADGE

by Hans Ferdinand, NAV 836  
(from the Archives)

*[This article was originally published in Australian Numismatist, Vol 32 n° 1, Jan/Feb 1978]*

For the design of this badge, I have to thank Terry Pepperell who based it on the famous "Owl" of Athens. This is a youthful owl, standing right, the initials "NAV" to its right and the Roman numerals "XV" to the left. As the finished badge was to be only slightly larger than the One Cent coin, all this had to be very small and compact, and yet be far enough apart not to look too crowded.

For the material for the die, I chose one inch diameter black mild steel. I did this mainly because my graving tools were only made from hardened silversteel, which is not hard enough to cut the high quality toolsteels of modern dies. But then the ancient Athenians did not have these special steels either, and I wanted this badge to be made as closely as possible to the ancient methods.

To start off, the outline of the owl and the size of the badge were sketched with ink on the dieface. I did this four times before I was satisfied that the proportions were right. This done, I started to remove metal in the area of the main body of the owl using a small, a very small, chisel. When I felt that I had taken sufficient metal out, I smoothed it out with a scraper and took a lead impression of the result.

Comparing this with the sketch and a picture of an "Owl", I set about scraping and gouging, taking lead impressions as I went along. When the body was about three quarter finished, I had to cut the circles around the eyes; this I found to be most difficult. First, I used a very narrow chisel to outline the circles, and then this was cut to its final shape with a scraper. Once the eyes were finished, the final touches were given to the owl, and the initials and numbers were chiselled in. Now all that remained was to square the die off to the required shape.

With the die finished, I could start with the preparations for making the flans. Going through the usual motions of the first lot being too small and the second too large, I finally struck the right amount of silver required to give the badge the dumpy, lumpy look of the Athenian Owl.

The silver used is 99% pure, that is, better than Sterling Silver. Since I did not have a smelting oven or furnace to do the job, I cheated and used a welding torch to heat the silver. This was done by first placing the correct amount of silver into cavities in a flan tray and then directing the heat of the torch down into the tray. Eventually I had enough round, globular flans to start with the next operation. The flans were heated up over a coke fire which was brought to the required heat with the aid of forced air from a vacuum cleaner, and diameter just under that of the finished product. With all the flans flattened, the striking could begin; the flans were placed on a blank lower die, the Owl-die placed on top and struck two hard blows with a five-pound hammer.

The badges were dropped into a bucket of water to cool down. When all were struck, I found that, while they looked good enough to be coins, they were not centred enough for a badge; as a matter of fact, only 25 % of this first batch was acceptable. So, back to the melting pot with the rest and start all over again. This time, I rigged up a guide for the upper die and made a cavity into the lower die which positioned the flans roughly where they were supposed to be, and then the business started all over again. This time, I had a reject rate of only 10 %, which was much more acceptable, and once these were restruck, I could worry about mounting the badges.

Since money is the ever dominating factor, I finally settled on a clip-type mount that was easy to fit to a lapel and would not slip as easily as a pin, while still being reasonably priced.

The badges were cleaned in a mild acid and water solution, and silver soldered onto the backplate of the mount. All that remained was to give a clean and polish, and the N.A.V. Owl was finished.

***Archivist's note:*** *The first presentation of these badges was made on the 515th meeting which was our Christmas Meeting, Friday, 16th December 1977, when 37 members were presented with the badge, or if they were not present, their names were read out and the badges posted to them. We now have a 25 Year Continuous Membership Badge and nearly forty members have received it or will be presented with it this year.*

# REMINISCENCES OF A COIN COLLECTOR

by Ian Young, NAV 17

I well remember those early visits to the Eastern Market although they reach back more than half a Century.

The site has long been occupied by the Southern Cross Hotel, but in the days of which I speak, the Eastern Market in all its faded Victorian splendour stretched along Exhibition Street from Little Collins Street to Bourke Street and half-way down the hill towards Russell Street.

I can still recall the tantalising odours wafting from Franz, the continental grocer, with its old fashioned interior and sawdust covered floor. There were also a hardware merchant, and a couple of wonderful second hand book shops where one could browse through hundreds of fascinating volumes covering every conceivable subject. There was an old shop selling bric à brac and antiques, too: old pictures, stuffed birds and animals, swords and other weapons and, as I clearly remember, several human skulls decorated with red and yellow ochre - no doubt the relics of a long forgotten, but nevertheless successful, New Guinea head-hunting expedition. Despite all these attractions, the target of my regular pilgrimages to the Eastern Market was the shop of R.C. Walker, Stamp and Coin Dealer.

Sometimes I would arrive early and my nose would be pressed against the glass window when Mr Walker arrived, pushing his bicycle, for he cycled into town from one of the bayside suburbs. He would lean it against the shop front, remove his bicycle clips and, with his lunch box under his arm, unlock the door, reaching down to pick up the scatter of letters which had been pushed under it. Whilst I examined the coin which had caught my eye, Mr Walker, on the other side of the cluttered counter, sorted through the day's mail.

I can see him still, middle-aged, slim, grey-haired and spectacled with his aquiline nose. It is to Ronald Curwen Walker as much as anyone, that I owe my lifelong interest in numismatics.

My mother accompanied me on one of my earliest visits and bought me my first Roman coin. A rather worn dupondius of Antoninus Pius, it would

have cost three or four shillings. The legend was somewhat indistinct but the bust of the emperor was unmistakable. It is now long gone and yet, if I should see it tomorrow, I would recognise it immediately.

I remember one day sorting through a pile of Elizabeth I sixpences which had been displayed on a shelf in the window. I pointed out to Mr Walker that some of them, the larger coins, were in fact shillings. "That's as it may be, young Ian, but they are still five shillings each" said Mr Walker.

During one of my earlier visits I saw my first Holey Dollar. I had begun to take an interest in Australian coins and when Mr Walker produced it I was immediately keen to add it to my collection. Mr Walker pursed his lips. "Well, I had better not. I promised to keep it for the Padre". I was naturally disappointed although, for me, ten pounds was, after all, a lot of money.

It was during one of these visits to Mr Walker's shop that I was introduced to "the Padre". It wasn't long after the war had ended, and Major F. Charles Bremer was wearing his army Chaplain's uniform. A gentle, kind, soft-spoken man with a twinkle in his eye, "the Padre" was an indefatigable collector. In the late 1940's, there were few actual coin dealers in Melbourne but there were many more shops then, scattered around the city, selling antiques and bric à brac, and pawnbrokers too, whose windows usually displayed an interesting array of coins and medals.

How often was I told, "We did have a coin which would have interested you but the Padre called in this morning" or "yes, I remember we did have something like that, but there was this reverend gentleman..." I still smile when I think of it. I had a soft spot for the Padre but then, I think most of us did.

Perhaps it was at our first meeting that the Padre told me of the proposed formation of The Numismatic Association of Victoria. Yes, they were looking for junior members, too. The first meeting was to be held at the Victorian Railways Institute on Friday 17th May - this being in 1946.

I remember that first meeting, but as much as anything else, I remember the cold, dark night and the forbidding, cavernous interior of the Railways building in Flinders street and the deafening echo of my footsteps on the stone stairs and along the corridor as I sought room 8.

Amongst those foundation members was Roy W. Farman who was, in fact, the convenor of the meeting and subsequently the first secretary of the

Association. Roy Farman lived in Ivanhoe in a large comfortable house surrounded by a rambling garden. He had a vast collection. It seemed hard to imagine a coin he would not have. I remember visiting him one evening. I was rather pleased because, that day, I had purchased an early 18th Century medal which commemorated the capture of Porto Bello by Admiral Vernon. "There are a number of different Admiral Vernon medals and I suppose I have most of them" said Roy Farman when, after I had proudly shown him my purchase, he returned from one of his cabinets with three or four trays each filled with row after row of them. I now own one of his coin cabinets and it houses a significant part of my collection, although I am sure it contained but a small part of his.

One of the younger members I remember was Don Wicks. Don was a school teacher by profession and, I recall, specialised in the medals of Goetz, the noted German medallist. His calling took him to Tasmania for several years. Now I find that he and I are the sole surviving foundation members of the Association.

Among the early members, and one with whom I became particularly friendly, was Walter Gronich. Walter was a keen collector, an interesting and engaging companion and a generous host.

I remember those evenings at Walter's home in North Balwyn poring over his extensive collection of 16th and 17th Century German thalers and multiple thalers, with their proud heraldic reverses. I found them very impressive then and the series still has a fascination for me.

Then there was of course, Ray Jewell. Mourned by many as a great loss to Australian numismatics, but even more, as a personal friend. I got to know Ray rather better, I suppose, in later years. Since my retirement in 1986, I usually visit the city twice a week for business and social reasons. The highlights of the visits, in those days, were the occasions when I called to see Ray at Spinks in Collins Street and, a short distance away in Embank Arcade, another early member of our Association, my good friend Reg Williams, then the proprietor of Regal Coins. Ray and Reg regularly took morning tea together and I was fortunate to join them on a number of occasions. Reg, an authority on Australian military medals and the author of a number of recognised works on the subject, has now retired with his wife, Roma, to Queensland.

At the end of 1987 I was mystified to receive a large and impressive envelope from London. To my considerable surprise and pleasure, it was to learn that I had been elected a fellow of The Royal Numismatic Society. Ray and Reg had organised this - and I hadn't known anything about it!

As mentioned earlier, until perhaps the early 1950s, opportunities for coin collectors in Melbourne were rather limited. Older collectors will no doubt remember Mrs Dawson's shop in Lonsdale Street opposite the Queen Victoria Hospital. The arresting window display would include, amongst the crystal, china, glassware and silver, the odd Pickelhaube helmet, perhaps a percussion pistol or two, bronze statuettes and other interesting and curious paraphernalia. As one entered the shop one would always pause at the showcase on the left. Here were displayed the coins and medals, amongst more modern issues such as English crowns and French ecus and five franc pieces. I recall an Athenian tetradrachm, several of the fractional silver Athenian issues and, at various times, Roman Republican denarii including one or two serrati, probably the first I had seen. Mrs Dawson seemed to have a large circle of friends who would regularly visit her and, seated on one side of the counter with Mrs Dawson seated on the other, enjoy afternoon tea and conversation. Life was certainly more leisurely in those days.

Further along Lonsdale Street, on the corner of Russell Street, there was a pawnbroker in whose window one would often see coins and military campaign medals. There were several pawnbrokers in Russell Street in those days and a glance at their windows was sometimes rewarding. Mention should be made too, of The Australian Mont de Piété Loan and Deposit Company (to give them their full title) whose head office stood on the corner of Little Collins and Elizabeth Streets. Here, and indeed occasionally in one of their suburban branches, one was quite likely to find the odd interesting coin or medal.

It was only in the mid-1950s that collecting Australian coins became really popular, and I think that applies to Australiana generally. I can well remember being offered a couple of Victorian Centenary florins. I was lunching with business associates in North Melbourne at the time. Anyway, these coins were, as is usual, in VF - EF condition and so I thought the price asked, twenty five shillings each, was quite reasonable.

Much could be found in circulation in those days, even from perusing the contents of one's own pocket - my 1923 half-penny, for instance. I well

remember the day when I went to the petty cash tin in my office to change a note into smaller denominations. When I opened it, there, in one of the coin compartments, staring me in the face, was my 1922 overdate threepence!

Of course, if one had a helpful and understanding bank teller, as I did, one could get say, twenty pounds worth of florins and, having extracted the collectable items and replaced them with less desirable florins, return them for yet another lot.

In the 1950s one could build up quite an impressive collection of George V and George VI silver issues in this fashion. Of course, this was repeated in the late 1960s when, with the introduction of decimal currency, people went to their banks and cashed in at face value coins accumulated, perhaps by a deceased relative and, in some cases, undisturbed for more than a quarter of a century.

Perhaps once a week, when given the opportunity, I would sort through an accumulation, only extracting those coins which were a really good VF or better. When I see what is being offered today, I rather regret being quite so selective.

Even in those days, 1930 pennies were fairly scarce. The one in my collection was about fine. Later, I was offered, and I purchased, two others, both in reasonable condition. Ray Jewell rang me one evening to say that he had an American friend who was anxious to buy a 1930 penny and, as he had heard that I had two or three, he wondered if I would be prepared to sell one to his friend. Well, I said I was, and that the price would be what I had myself paid. Ray's friend seem content with the coin he purchased and with the thirty shillings he paid for it.

I managed to assemble quite a reasonable Australian Collection - coins, tokens and medals. However, as time moved on, my interests turned to other areas, mainly classical and early oriental. I eventually sold most of my Australian collection to Ray Jewell and, as a consequence, have the satisfaction of knowing that it formed the foundation of what was to become a very fine collection indeed.

Well, that is all in the past. As one gets older one tends to reminisce - often without undue encouragement. A privilege, I suggest, which comes with age.

One really shouldn't dwell on the past, however. Rather, one should look to the future - I do. To all the absorbing interest and pleasure that the world of Numismatics continues to offer.



From the Archives of the Victorian Numismatic Society

“[The Society was organised for] the increase and diffusion of numismatic knowledge”

June 1929



# AUSTRALIAN DECIMAL CURRENCY

by Frank Robinson, NAV 713

Thirty years have passed since C-Day (Change-over Day) - the day Australia changed from a sterling based currency to decimal currency. At the time, many people were introduced to coin collecting with the purpose of putting together a set of the old coins. However some people did not consider that the new coins were worth collecting! Not many collectors were interested in paper currency (old or new) at that time. Now 30 years on, it is worth having a look at the wide range of coins and notes that have been issued. But first we should briefly consider the proposals for a decimal currency in Australia.

## PROPOSALS

The first proposal for decimal currency in Australia seems to have been made by Governor King in 1803/4 and may have been influenced by discussions that he had had with the French explorer Nicolas Baudin. King's proposal was to use the farthing as the minor coin and have a major coin worth almost a guinea (21 shillings). His currency table was

One piece of	20	farthings or	5d
" " "	50	" "	1/0½d
" " "	100	" "	2/1d
" " "	1000	" "	20/10d

However King apparently lost interest in the idea and decimal currency was forgotten in Australia for almost a century.

In June 1901, the first Federal government appointed a select committee to enquire into the possibility of the Commonwealth coining its own gold, silver and bronze coins and adopting a decimal system of currency. The Committee decided in favour of dividing the pound into 1000 units called "mils"; however the Government decided not to do anything until the United Kingdom made a similar move (the UK had considered the possibility of decimals at various times during the 19th century, but didn't change until five years after Australia).

A Royal Commission on Banking in 1937 made a similar recommendation, however it was overlooked amongst what were considered more important recommendations.

The Decimal Currency Council was formed by enthusiasts in 1957 and campaigned to secure Government action. The Prime Minister announced in 1958 that the Commonwealth Government accepted the principle of decimal currency. This led to the appointment of an official Decimal Currency Committee early in 1959. In August 1960 this Committee recommended a decimal system based on 10 shillings divided into 100 cents. In June 1963, the Federal Government appointed a seven-man Decimal Currency Board to carry out the changeover. However the general public disliked the choice of "royal" for the major unit which was favoured by Sir Robert Menzies, the Prime Minister. ("*Royal*" was actually derived from the Spanish "*real*", the French "*royal d'or*" and the English "*ryal*"). In just over three months, the Government yielded to public pressure and the name of the new major unit was changed to "dollar".

## **OUR FIRST DOLLAR**

The name dollar originated from a large silver coin called the "*Joachimsthaler*" which was first struck in 1520 from silver mined near Joachimsthal in Bohemia (now part of the Czech Republic); these coins were named after their city of origin (as was then the custom in Europe). As these coins were minted in enormous numbers, they soon circulated to other areas with trade and their name was shortened to "*thaler*"; this in turn was corrupted to "*taler*", "*daler*" and "*dollar*". Other cities and States struck large silver coins and they were soon all referred to as "*talers*" or "*dollars*". In time, these two names came to be synonymous with many large silver coins irrespective of the coin's correct name.

However this was not the first time that Australia had used a "dollar" currency. Governor Macquarie had mutilated 40,000 Spanish and Spanish-American eight reale (or dollar) coins in 1813 to make the "Holey Dollar" which was current at five shillings, but was later devalued to four shillings. In the 1820's, Governor Brisbane replaced Sterling with a Dollar currency with an exchange rate of one dollar to four shillings and four pence (4/4d).

## DECIMAL CURRENCY BOARD

A two year period was allowed to complete the changeover, during which it was expected that all denominations of the pre-decimal coins would continue to circulate. However the halfpenny, penny and threepence disappeared from circulation very quickly while the other three coins (which had exact equivalents in the decimal system) stayed in circulation for much longer. The work of the changeover took less time than expected and the official dual currency period finished on 1 August 1967. The Decimal Currency Board was abolished by Act of Parliament in June 1969.

To help us understand what decimal currency would mean and how it worked, the Decimal Currency Board issued a number of publications such as *"Dollars & Cents & You"*, *"Banking in Dollars and Cents"*, and *"Australia's Decimal Coins"*. The cartoon character "Dollar Bill" kept us informed and amused. "Dollar Jills" manned telephones in the Capital cities to answer the public's questions. There were the advertizing jingles with lines (from memory) such as:

*"In come the Dollars and in come the Cents,  
Out go the Pounds, the Shillings and the Pence.  
When they all come together on the fourteenth  
Of February Nineteen sixty six!"*

Various financial institutions also issued publications to assist us with the changeover.

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT

Australia's pre-decimal coinage had been struck at a number of mints. With the exception of some war-time issues struck in Birmingham (UK) and the USA, these mints were all branches of the Royal Mint in London. The three mints in Australia (Sydney, Melbourne and Perth) were all under the control of the British Government. The Australian Government did not have its own mint. The Sydney mint had operated from 1855 to 1926 (and went broke making money!), the Melbourne mint operated from 1872 to 1970, and the Perth mint operated from 1899. The Perth Mint has been striking precious metal non-circulating coins for collectors and investors since 1986.

The decision was taken to open a new modern mint owned and operated by the Australian Government. The Royal Australian Mint in Canberra was

opened on 22 February 1965 and incorporated the latest machinery and methods for coin production, as well as a visitor's viewing gallery above the work area.

The initial work of the Royal Australian Mint was to strike bronze 1¢ and 2¢ coins and the silver 50¢ coins. Since then, Canberra has struck the bulk of Australia's coinage, as well as orders for various medals and for overseas coinage.

## INTRODUCTION AND CHANGEOVER

The Currency Act 1965 set the date for the changeover as Monday 14 February 1966. All the banks were closed from 3.00 pm on Wednesday 9 February until the Monday (14th) opening time to give the staff time to make all the necessary changes to the accounts.

With one dollar equal to ten shillings, the pre-decimal coins of sixpence and higher, and all the notes, had exact equivalents in the decimal system. However the silver threepence and bronze penny and halfpenny did not. The following table shows the exchange rate of the pre-decimal coins with the decimal coins:

PRE-DECIMAL (£SD) COIN	REPLACED BY DECIMAL COIN	EXACT CONVERSION
1 penny	1 cent	1.2 pence
2 pence	2 cents	2.4 pence
3 pence		
4 pence	3 cents	3.6 pence
5 pence	4 cents	4.8 pence
6 pence	5 cents	6.0 pence
7 pence	6 cents	7.2 pence
8 pence	7 cents	8.4 pence
9 pence	8 cents	9.6 pence
10 pence		
11 pence	9 cents	10.8 pence
1 shilling	10 cents	12.0 pence



Royal Australian Mint's 1966 First Decimal Australian Coin Set  
(Reduced to 85%)

The specifications of the decimal coins that were initially released in 1966, and their exact equivalents in the former currency, were:

DECIMAL COINS					£SD COINS	
DENOM	METAL	ALLOY	WEIGHT	DIAMETER	DENOM	METAL
1 Cent	Bronze	97% Cu 2.5% Zn 0.5% Sn	40 grains (2.59 g)	0.695" (17.65 mm)	No equivalent	
2 Cents	Bronze		80 grains (5.18 g)	0.855" (21.72 mm)	No equivalent	
5 Cents	Cu-Ni	75% Cu 25% Ni	43.6 grains (2.83 g)	0.769" (19.53 mm)	6 Pence	Silver
10 Cents	Cu-Ni		87.3 grains (5.66 g)	0.934" (23.72 mm)	1 Shilling	Silver
20 Cents	Cu-Ni		174.6 grains (11.31 g)	1.128" (28.65 mm)	1 Florin	Silver
50 Cents	Silver	80% Ag 20% Cu	205 grains (13.28 g)	1.246" (31.65 mm)	(1 Crown)	Silver

The specifications, as stated in the "Currency Regulations", were in imperial units. I have also given the metric equivalents in brackets.

One florin was equal to two shillings and one crown was equal to five shillings (however this coin had only been struck twice - in 1937 and 1938 and had not circulated for many years). Abbreviations used in the above coinage table are the chemical symbols for the constituent elements of the alloys: (Ag = silver, Cu = copper, Ni = nickel, Sn = tin, Zn = zinc) and the standard abbreviations for measurement (g = gram, mm = millimetre, " = inch).

The Reserve Bank Act 1965 amended the Reserve Bank Act 1959 to allow, *inter alia*, for Australian notes to be issued in denominations of \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, or \$50 or "in any other denomination that the Treasurer, by instrument in writing published in the *Gazette*, determines". Initially it was decided to only issue notes of the same value as the pre-decimal notes to keep the changeover as simple as possible.

DECIMAL NOTES			PRE-DECIMAL NOTES	
DENOM	COLOUR	SIZE	DENOM	COLOUR
1 Dollar	Brown	5.5" x 2.75" (140 x 70 mm)	10 Shillings	Brown
2 Dollars	Green	5.7" x 2.8" (145 x 71 mm)	1 Pound	Green
10 Dollars	Blue	6.1" x 3.0" (155 x 76 mm)	5 Pounds	Blue
20 Dollars	Red	6.3" x 3.2" (160 x 81 mm)	10 Pounds	Red

The same basic colour was retained for the decimal notes of equivalent denominations, however the sizes were mostly reduced, and new designs were introduced (as discussed later in this paper).



Reverse of the \$1 Note displaying Aboriginal bark paintings  
(Reduced to 85%)

# CIRCULATING COINAGE

## INITIAL COINAGE

The initial coinage consisted of six denominations ranging from one cent to fifty cents (as listed in the table above). Major considerations were to keep the system as simple as possible, the weight of the coins to a practicable minimum and to use long lasting alloys. The silver alloy of the pre-decimal coins was relatively soft, but the cupro-nickel alloy is much harder and lasts a lot longer in circulation, thus reducing the cost of withdrawal and replacement of worn coins.

The change to decimal currency gave the opportunity to change the designs on the coinage. While it was decided to keep the effigy of the monarch on the obverse, a new effigy of Elizabeth II had recently been produced by Arnold Machin to replace the one that had been in use since 1953 (her 21st birthday portrait). This new effigy shows the queen wearing a diamond tiara which was a wedding present from Queen Mary (widow of King George V). A competition for the reverse designs resulted in those prepared by Australian silversmith Stuart Devlin being accepted. These were as follows:

- |           |                     |
|-----------|---------------------|
| · 1 cent  | Feather-tail Glider |
| · 2 cent  | Frill-necked Lizard |
| · 5 cent  | Echidna             |
| · 10 cent | Lyrebird            |
| · 20 cent | Platypus            |
| · 50 cent | Coat of Arms        |

## MINTS

Due to the large number of coins that were required for the changeover, coins were struck at a number of mints. Unfortunately for numismatists, it was decided not to place mintmarks on the coins:

*"Because it was intended that all Australian coins would be struck in the Royal Australian Mint after the initial demand incidental to the changeover to decimals had been satisfied, it was not considered necessary to distinguish the coins by a specific mark identifying the mint of origin. There are, therefore, no mintmarks, as such, on the decimal coins"*

(Letter from Mr J. M. Henderson, Controller of the Royal Australian Mint, published in the *Australian Coin Review*, April 1967, page 1)

Instead, so-called "privy marks" were used to designate which mint struck which coins; these are as follows:

DENOM	MINT	YEARS	PRIVY MARK
1 Cent	Canberra	1966 - 1991	All whiskers sharp
	Melbourne	1966 - 1968	Blunted first whisker (left side of face)
	Perth	1966	Blunted second whisker (left side of face)
2 Cents	Canberra	1966 - 1991	All claws sharp
	Melbourne	1966	Blunted third claw on left forepaw
	Perth	1966 - 1985	Blunted first claw on right forepaw
5 Cents	Canberra	1966	Short spine above elbow of left foreleg
	London	1966	Long spine above elbow of left foreleg
10 Cents	Canberra	1966	Four spikes on straight section of top-centre tail feather
	London	1966	Five spikes on straight section of top-centre tail feather
20 Cents	Canberra	1966	Gap between water line point and left side of head
	London	1966	No gap between water line point and left side of head
50 Cents	Canberra	1966	No privy mark required

To properly identify these privy marks, a good magnifying glass and good illustrations (as in most catalogues) are required (and, of course, some experience does help).

Since 1966, Australia's coins have been struck at the following mints:

MINT	DENOMINATIONS	YEARS STRUCK
Canberra	all	1966 →
Melbourne	1 cent	1966 - 1968
	2 cent	1966
Perth	1 cent	1966
	2 cent	1966 - 1968, 1973 - 1983, 1985
Llantrisant (Wales)	1 cent - 20 cent, 50 cent (RW)	1981
London (England)	5 cent - 20 cent	1966
Ottawa (Canada)	5 cent, 20 cent	1981

I am not aware of any mintmarks or privy marks for coins struck at Llantrisant or Ottawa.

Since 1993, the one dollar coin has been struck at the Royal Agricultural Shows in both Melbourne and Sydney; these have the mintmarks "M" and "S" respectively; the Royal Brisbane Show was also added to this list in 1995 with a "B" mintmark. Those struck in Canberra either have no mintmark (1993) or "C" mintmark (1993 →).

## **FIFTY CENT**

### **• ROUND**

The initial issue of fifty cent coins was struck in .800 fine silver. However the price of silver rose from less than face value to \$1.71 per troy ounce (57¢ per 50¢ coin) in early 1968 (the price quickly rose and was soon 76¢ per 50¢ coin in March 1968). This meant that the government was issuing the coins at a considerable loss. It was also argued that Australia did not need a 50 cent denomination - probably because we had not had time to get used to it.

### **• 12 SIDED**

After much discussion, it was finally decided to issue a 12-sided (or dodecagonal) cupro-nickel coin [1.246" (31.6 mm), 240 grains (15.55 g)],

with the same design, to replace the round silver 50 cent. The first of these were dated 1969. There were no 50 cent coins dated 1967 or 1968 (apart from patterns).

## INTRODUCTION OF \$1 AND \$2 COINS

A long-lasting coin is far more economical than a very short-lived note as the latter has to be continually printed and replaced in circulation. Thus, as the average circulation life of the one dollar note had dropped to less than six months, it was decided to replace it, in 1984, with an aluminium-bronze coin with a diameter of 25 mm (between that of the 10 cent and 20 cent coins). The reverse depicted five kangaroos and was designed by Stuart Devlin.

In 1988, the two dollar note was likewise replaced with a smaller, but thicker, aluminium-bronze coin with a diameter of 20.62 mm (between that of the 5 cent and 10 cent coins). The reverse depicts a male aboriginal, the Southern Cross constellation, and a plant of the *Xanthorrhoea* genus (the common name of which is "grass tree", but it is also known as "black boy") and was designed by Horst Hahn.

The alloy used for both of these coins was 92% copper, 6% aluminium, 2% nickel and is referred to as "aluminium bronze".



First Obverse      \$1 Coin      New Obverse      \$2 Coin  
1984      Regular Reverse      1985 -      1988 -

## RECALL OF ¢1 AND ¢2 COINS

Due to inflation, the ¢1 and ¢2 coins had become almost useless and the cost of production made them uneconomical. Thus it was decided to withdraw them from circulation in 1991. They were last struck for circulation in 1990 (¢1) and 1989 (¢2), however they continued to be struck for the mint uncirculated and proof sets up to, and including, 1991. This then brought us back to six circulating coin denominations.

## COMMEMORATIVES

In November 1967, the Australian Coin Review started a campaign for commemorative coins to be issued. Their stated preference was for a dollar coin, later stated (October 1968) as a crown-sized dollar. However, in 1970, the first of a series of 50 cent commemoratives was issued. In 1986 the first one dollar commemorative was struck. The only other denomination issued as a commemorative for circulation is a 20 cent in 1995. Commemorative coins issued to date are:

DENOM	YEAR	EVENT	DESIGNER
20 Cents	1995	United Nations Jubilee	Horst Hahn
50 Cents	1970	Captain Cook Bicentenary	Stuart Devlin
	1977	Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee	Stuart Devlin
	1981	Charles and Diana Royal Wedding	Stuart Devlin
	1982	XIIth Commonwealth Games, Brisbane	Stuart Devlin
	1988	First Fleet Bicentenary	Michael Tracey
	1991	25th Anniversary of Decimal Currency	Kruger Gray / Horst Hahn
	1994	Year of the Family	Carolyn Rosser
	1995	50th Anniversary End of World War II	Louis Loumen / Horst Hahn
1 Dollar	1986	International Year of Peace	Horst Hahn
	1988	First Fleet Bicentenary	Stuart Devlin
	1992	XXVth Olympiad Barcelona	Margaret Priest
	1993	Landcare Water Conservation	Vladimir Gottwald
	1994	10th Anniversary of change from \$1 Note to \$1 Coin	Vladimir Gottwald
	1995	Waltzing Matilda Centenary	Vladimir Gottwald
	1996	Centenary of Death of Sir Henry Parkes, "Father" of Federation	

As a general rule, the years that commemorative coins have been issued, no coins of that denomination were struck with the regular design. The only exceptions to this were in 1981 (50 cent), 1994 (one dollar) and 1995 (20 cent and one dollar). Striking of the regular 50 cent coin had already commenced when the marriage date of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer was announced; thus two versions of the 50 cent coin are available for 1981.

Non-circulating legal tender commemoratives have also been issued, but these will be dealt with later in this paper.

## **NEW PORTRAIT**

In 1985, a new portrait of her majesty, designed by Raphael Maklouf, replaced the one that had been in use since 1966. A more mature queen, by then aged 58 years, is shown wearing a crown. This effigy continues in use.

## **PROOF AND UNCIRCULATED SETS**

The initial public issue of Mint sets (both proof and uncirculated) were delayed as the Royal Australian Mint was concentrating on the production of coinage for circulation. The first proof sets available to the public could not be ordered until late 1967. Uncirculated sets had been available since 1966.

Because of the indecision over its fate, no 50¢ coins were struck dated 1967 or 1968. As a complete range of denominations were not available, the Royal Australian Mint decided not to issue any proof or uncirculated coin sets with those dates. In recent years, various dealers have made up their own 1967 and 1968 "uncirculated" sets for sale to collectors.

Due to the hard wearing alloys used in the decimal coins, there was no need to strike some denominations for circulation in certain years. However they were still struck for the mint sets. The years involved for each denomination are:

- 1¢      1986, 1991
- 2¢      1986, 1987, 1990, 1991
- 5¢      1985, 1986
- 10¢     1986, 1987
- 20¢     1986 - 1992

- 50¢ 1986, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1992
- \$1 1987, 1989 - 1991, 1994 (k), 1995(k)
- \$2 1991

## **CARD**

There were several versions of the 1966 uncirculated coin set; three of these were in cardboard packs with the coins protected by plastic. A two-coin set with the bronze coins (1¢ & 2¢) were issued in a green pack at 5 cents - I believe that these were available to school children. The other two sets were issued in blue cardboard packs and contained all six coins; the early sets contained the London struck 5¢, 10¢, and 20¢ coins, while the later sets (the minority) contained all Canberra struck coins. The blue cards were issued at \$1.00 each. The card packs were only used for the 1966 sets.

## **WALLET**

As well as the above sets in cards, a number of 1966 uncirculated coin sets were available in wallets. Sets in red, blue, green and black Reserve Bank wallets were on sale at the Royal Australian Mint for \$1.00 each; the covers of these featured the wording "*Australian Decimal Currency First Issue 1966*" with a map of Australia. The Royal Australian Mint also issued sets in a wallet: red and blue wallets were available to the general public at \$1.50 each and another in a dark blue wallet was for presentation to VIP's and had the Australian coat of arms with the date "*14th February 1966*".

The Royal Australian Mint issued two versions of its 1969 sets: one in a blue wallet and one in a red wallet. Apart from 1977 (purple) and 1982 (green), red wallets were used exclusively for all sets from 1970 to 1983. The wallets for 1970, 1977 and 1982 contained the commemorative 50¢ coins issued in those years. The 1981 wallet contained the ordinary 50¢ coin instead of the commemorative. The issue price of these sets rose from \$1.50 (1969) to \$3.00 (1983).

## **BUBBLE PACK**

In 1984, the Royal Australian Mint introduced "bubble" packs, replacing the plastic wallets, for the uncirculated mint sets. These packs were also decorated with different themes each year to illustrate some aspect of the set; those with commemorative coins used the theme of the commemoration. The issue price of these sets have risen from \$3.70 (1984) to \$15.00 (1995).

## **'GUMNUT BABY' SET**

In 1993 the Royal Australian Mint added a second type of "bubble" pack; this new one featured artwork from May Gibbs' *"Gumnut Babies"*. These sets are intended to be sold as a "birth-date" set for babies. The first type was found to have artwork that was not attributable to May Gibbs and, after objections from the copyright holders, they were withdrawn and replaced by a new design which faithfully complied with her artwork. The first issue had the wording: *"A special gift for your new baby from the Royal Australian Mint"*, the second issue read *"Marking a special day to last forever"*. The issue price of these sets has risen from \$15.00 (1993) to \$19.50 (1995). A *"Gumnut Babies"* proof set was added in 1995 (issue price \$75.00).

## **PROOF SETS**

The first decimal proof set issued by the Royal Australian Mint (dated 1966, but produced in 1967) set a new standard for proof coins. These coins were struck from dies that had been highly polished and then frosted in the design area. They were packed in a plush case that offered no protection to the coins when the case was opened. (I have seen a person lick their finger and then wipe it across the top of the coins in the case! Fortunately I had previously covered my set with a piece of plastic which prevented the coins from being damaged.)

From 1969, the proof sets were placed in clear plastic cases which were ultrasonically sealed (ie with sound waves). These were packed in polystyrene foam until 1984. Since 1985 the proof sets have been cased inside a wallet. The issue price of these sets has risen from \$10.00 (1969) to \$60.00 (1995).

## NOTE ISSUES

### INITIAL ISSUES

As mentioned earlier, the initial issues of decimal notes in 1966 (\$1, \$2, \$10, \$20) were of the same values as the pre-decimal notes that they were replacing. All the paper decimal notes have a watermark of Captain Cook and a vertical metallic thread. The signatories on the notes are the Governor of the Reserve Bank and the Secretary to the Treasury. The basic designs of these four notes were prepared by Gordon Andrews and are:

DENOM	SIDE	DESIGN
\$1	obv	Queen Elizabeth II, Australian Coat of Arms
	rev	Aboriginal bark paintings
\$2	obv	John Macarthur, merino ram
	rev	William Farrer, eleven ears of wheat
\$10	obv	Francis Greenway, buildings and architecture of early Sydney
	rev	Henry Lawson, some of his writings and Gulgong buildings
\$20	obv	Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith, pendulum tracings symbolic of wings
	rev	Lawrence Hargrave, some of his flying machines and kites

### SIGNATURES AND SERIAL PREFIXES

After having the same pair of signatures (with one change in title) on the notes for the previous 14 years, the decimal notes have seen numerous changes in the signatories without any change in their titles (although one signed as Deputy Governor). In the 30 years of decimal currency, there have been five Governors (plus one Deputy Governor) of the Reserve Bank and eight Secretaries to the Treasury; this includes one Secretary who changed to Governor (and signed in both positions). The result has been up to 12 different signature combinations for each denomination.

YEAR	GOVERNOR	SECRETARY	\$1	\$2	\$5	\$10	\$20	\$50	\$100
1966	Coombs	Wilson	√	√		√	√		
1967		Randall	√	√	√	√	√		
1968	Phillips		√	√	√	√	√		
1972		Wheeler	√	√	√	√	√	√	
1975	Knight		√	√	√	√	√	√	
1979		Stone	√	√	√	√	√	√	
1983	Johnston		√	√	√	√	√	√	√
1985		Fraser		√	√	√	√	√	√
1989	Phillips (Dep)						√	√	
1990	Fraser	Higgins			√	√	√	√	√
1991		Cole			√	√	√	√	√
1993		Evans			√	√	√	√	

The paper notes all had six-digit serial numbers with a prefix of three letters. The initial scheme was for:

- \$1 notes to use the letters AAA to EYY
- \$2 notes to use the letters FAA to LYY
- \$5 notes to use the letters NAA to RYY
- \$10 notes to use the letters SAA to VYY
- \$20 notes to use the letters XAA to XYY
- \$50 notes to use the letters YAA to YYY

The letters I, M, O, W and Z were not intended to be used in the ordinary issue.

However the effects of inflation meant that larger quantities of the higher denomination notes were required, and the two lowest denominations were discontinued; thus the above scheme was varied. At various times it was decided to use the letters M, W and Z. The prefixes actually used were:

<b>DENOM</b>	<b>PREFIXES USED</b>
\$1	AAA - AYY, BAA - BZZ, CAA - CZZ, DAA - DPS
\$2	FAA - FYY, GAA - GYY, HAA - HZZ, JAA - JZZ, KAA - KZZ, LAA - LQG
\$5	NAA - NZZ, PAA - PZZ, QAA - QPG
\$10	SAA - SYY, TAA - TZZ, UAA - UZZ, MAA - MRR
\$20	XAA - XZZ, VAA - VZZ, EAA - EZZ, RAA - RZZ, AAA - ADK
\$50	YAA - YZZ, WAA - WZZ, FAA - FAB
\$100	ZAA - ZLD

## STAR REPLACEMENT NOTES

For the benefit of bank tellers, notes were packed in "sections" of 100 notes with number ...001 (or ...101, ...201, etc) at the top and ...100 (or ...200, ...300, etc) at the bottom of the section. As errors can occur in any of the many steps involved in printing paper money, gaps can result in the numbering process. Originally, this was overcome by hand numbering notes with the same serial number as the note being replaced (the \$20 note continued with this system until 1970). As this was a very time consuming operation, it was replaced by a system which used specially numbered "replacement" notes which had a different system of numbers. The decimal replacement notes had serial letters starting with Z and a five-digit serial number plus an asterisk. This system was discontinued in 1971 and sections of 100 notes then commenced and finished at any number. The serial letter prefixes used were:

<b>DENOM</b>	<b>PREFIXES USED</b>		
	<b>COOMBS / WILSON</b>	<b>COOMBS / RANDALL</b>	<b>PHILLIPS / RANDALL</b>
\$1	ZAA - ZAF	ZAF - ZAH	ZAH - ZAQ
\$2	ZFA - ZFH	ZFH - ZFK	ZFK - ZFS
\$5		ZNA - ZNC	ZNC - ZND
\$10	ZSA - ZSD	ZSD - ZSE	ZSF - ZSJ
\$20			ZXA

## DELETION OF 'COMMONWEALTH': "WHITLAM FORGERIES"

After the election of the Federal Labor Government in December 1972, the Prime Minister (Gough Whitlam) instructed that the term "*Commonwealth of Australia*" would be replaced by the word "*Australia*". Thus the title on both sides of the notes was changed as well as the legal tender phrase. This phrase originally read:

*LEGAL TENDER THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
AND THE TERRITORIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH*

and was changed to:

*THIS AUSTRALIAN NOTE IS LEGAL TENDER  
THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA AND ITS TERRITORIES*

As this change was part way through the Phillips / Wheeler issue, this signature combination occurs on all the denominations from \$1 to \$20 on both types. At the time, some people referred to the new notes as the "Whitlam forgeries". However when the Labor Government was defeated in the December 1975 elections, the term "*Commonwealth of Australia*" did not return to the note issue.

## NEW NOTES INTRODUCTION & WITHDRAWAL OF OTHERS

The first addition to the original issues was the introduction of the five dollar note on 29 May 1967. This note had not been included at the time of the changeover in order to keep it as simple as possible.

The next note was the fifty dollar which was introduced on 9 October 1973 and was the first of the "AUSTRALIA" notes released. This was followed on 26 March 1984 by the one hundred dollar note. The five dollar and fifty dollar notes were designed by Gordon Andrews and the one hundred dollar note by Harry Williamson.

DENOM	SIDE	DESIGN
\$5	obv	Sir Joseph Banks, Australian flora
	rev	Caroline Chisholm, women & children and Sydney streets and ships
\$50	obv	Lord Howard Florey, laboratory research and academic life
	rev	Ian Clunies Ross, research into environment of earth and outer space
\$100	obv	Sir Douglas Mawson, rock strata formations and symbolic crystal
	rev	John Tebbutt, two of his astronomical observatories

As mentioned earlier, the two lowest denomination notes were replaced by coins. The one dollar note was last issued on 11 May 1984 with the coin being issued on 14 May. The two dollar note was last issued on 17 June 1988 with the coin being issued the same year.

## **THREAD AND NUMBERING CHANGES**

The metallic thread embedded in the paper was initially positioned near the centre of the note. However this is the area where notes are mostly folded. The result was tearing of the note along the metallic thread. To overcome this problem, the thread was relocated approximately 15 mm (10 mm on the \$1) to the left of its original position. The two varieties are referred to as "centre thread" and "side thread". This change (which occurred in 1976) affected all notes then in circulation, from \$1 to \$50.

To allow for computer reading of serial numbers, the typeface used was changed from the original Gothic N° 18 to Optical Character Recognition Type B (OCR-B). Commencing about 1977 with the \$2 notes, the change was introduced progressively as new numbering machines became available. In the late 1980's, there was a short issue of \$20 Johnston / Fraser notes which reverted to the Gothic N° 18 serials. This change did not occur in the \$1 notes, thus all notes of this denomination used Gothic N° 18 serials.

## **FORGERIES**

Unfortunately there are always some people who think that they can get away with illegally making their own money (literally). In December 1966, a large number (about 4500) of good quality forgeries of the \$10 note were distributed. However, they did not have the metallic thread but did have a reasonable imitation of the watermark; also the paper that was used fluoresced under ultraviolet light whereas the genuine one remained dull purple. The irony of this forgery is that Francis Greenway (who is depicted on the note) was transported for forgery! Since then, various other notes have been forged, but have not made the same impact as this first one did. Colour photocopiers now pose a major threat to paper currency.

## **PLASTIC (POLYMER) NOTES**

Legal manufacturers of currency need to keep at least a few steps ahead of the forgers. Thus research and development of a polymer (ie plastic) note

was undertaken by the Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO). Australia was not the first to develop plastic notes - in the early 1980's notes were produced from "Tyvek" (a DuPont plastic) for Costa Rica, Haiti and the Isle of Man. So far no attempts at forging Australia's polymer notes are known.

- **\$10 COMMEMORATIVE**

Australia's first polymer note was released on 27 January 1988 as a commemorative for the Bicentennial. Unfortunately vandals attacked the hologram (a diffraction grating) with sharp objects to see if they could rub it off. Within a week it was withdrawn from circulation. After the Note Printing Branch made some changes and printed new stocks, the notes were re-released later in the year. Eventually, souvenir folders containing notes with the overprinted date "26 JANUARY 1988" were released on 8 July 1988.

Designed by Harry Williamson, these notes depict the First Fleet sailing ship "HMS Supply" and a medley of people against a background of Sydney Cove on the obverse, and an Aboriginal youth with rock paintings and a Morning Star Pole on the reverse. The hologram, which depicts Captain Cook, is situated in a clear plastic window. The serial number is prefixed by two letters and two numerals - this same system has been used on all polymer notes issued so far.



Bicentennial Commemorative \$10 Note  
(Reduced to 75%)

This note was intended as a trial of the new technology before it was put into full production for regular polymer notes to replace the paper notes.

- **REGULAR SERIES**

The first of the regular circulation polymer notes was released on 7 July 1992. It had originally been intended to issue each new denomination in order at intervals of about seven months. However various problems delayed the issue of each note and now all except the \$100 note have been issued. With the introduction of the ten dollar note, the prefix of the serial numbers was varied to incorporate the year of printing.



Regular \$5 Note (Original Issue)  
(Reduced to 85%)

The release dates and designs are:

DENOM	RELEASED	WINDOW	SIDE	DESIGN
	SIZE	DESIGN		
\$5	7.7.1992	Gumnut	obv	Queen Elizabeth II, branch of a flowering eucalypt
	130 x 65 mm		rev	New Parliament House (Canberra)
\$10	1.11.1993	Windmill	obv	A B (Banjo) Patterson, "The Man from Snowy River"
	137 x 65 mm		rev	Dame Mary Gilmore, bullock dray
\$20	31.10.1994	Compass Rose	obv	Mary Reibey, one of her ships, the "Mercury"
	144 x 65 mm		rev	Rev John Flynn, first flying doctor plane
\$50	4.10.1995	Southern Cross	obv	David Unaipon, some of his patents and writings
	151 x 65 mm		rev	Edith Cowan, public speaking
\$100	15.5.1996	Lyrebird	obv	Dame Nellie Melba
	158 x 65 mm		rev	Sir John Monash

All these notes are the same width (65 mm), but increase in length by 7 mm from the previous note. They all have a clear plastic window instead of the watermark used in the paper currency. Designers of these notes are Bruce Stewart (\$5 and \$100), Max Robinson (\$10), Brian Emery (\$20) and Brian Sadgrove (\$50).

- **\$5 RECOLOURED ISSUE**

Due to complaints that the polymer five dollar note was too easily confused with the polymer ten dollar note, it was decided to print it in bolder colours. At the same time, the opportunity was taken to make a few minor modifications to bring it in line with the other polymer notes. This modified note was released on 24 April 1995.

- **YEAR ISSUES**

The polymer notes have a six digit serial number prefixed by two letters and two numerals. The first issues of the polymer notes (\$10 dollar commemorative and \$5 dollar Fraser / Cole signatures) started the prefix

numerals at 00 and worked up to 99 before changing the prefix letters from AA to AB to AC, etc.

When the regular \$10 dollar note was introduced, a new system started which used the last two digits of the year of printing for the prefix numerals and changing the prefix letters at the end of each million notes. This system has been used for all polymer notes printed since then (from the Fraser / Evans signature combination).

Dated notes issued for circulation are:

YEAR	\$5	\$10	\$20	\$50	\$100
1993	√	√			
1994		√	√		
1995	√			√	

## FOLDERS AND UNCUT NOTES

Starting in 1988, Note Printing Australia have issued a number of products for collectors; these have been folders of various notes, uncut notes which have varied from pairs right up to full sheets, and vignettes from pre-decimal notes.

The collector folders that have been issued are:

- 1988 Last \$2 note
- 1988 Bicentennial \$10 polymer note
- 1992 First polymer / last paper \$5 notes
- 1993 80th anniversary of first Commonwealth note (overprinted on \$20 note)
- 1993 First polymer / last paper \$10 notes
- 1993 Eminent women \$10 note & stamp portfolio (joint issue with Australia Post)
- 1994 First polymer / last paper \$20 notes
- 1994 Hargrave Centenary \$20 note / stamp portfolio (joint issue with Australia Post)
- 1995 Waltzing Matilda Centenary \$10 note & phonecard portfolio (joint issue with Telecom Australia)
- 1995 Polymer \$5 notes - original and recoloured

- 1995 Florey 50th anniversary of his Nobel Prize \$50 note & stamp portfolio (joint issue with Australia Post)
- 1995 First polymer / last paper \$50 notes

Since 1994, NPA has issued annual folders of single polymer notes with that year's printing included in the serial number prefix (see above). For some denominations, these notes were the only ones printed that year.

Folders issued to date are:

- 1994 \$5, \$10
- 1995 \$5, \$10, \$20
- 1996 \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50

Uncut notes have been issued in pairs, strips of four, blocks of four, half sheets and full sheets.

DENOM	TYPE	SIGNATORIES	PAIR	STRIP	BLOCK OF 4	½ SHEET	FULL SHEET
\$10	Bicentennial	Johnston / Fraser		√ (4)	√	√	√ (24)
\$20	Paper	Phillips / Fraser		√ (10)			U (40)
\$50	Paper	Phillips / Fraser			√		U (32)
\$5	Paper	Fraser / Higgins	√		√	√	√ (40)
\$10	Paper	Fraser / Cole (Higgins)	√		√		
\$5	Paper	Fraser / Cole	√		√		
\$5	Polymer	Fraser / Cole					U (40)
\$20	Paper	Fraser / Cole	√		√		
\$10	Paper	Fraser / Cole					√ (40)
\$10	Polymer	Fraser / Cole					U (45)
\$50	Paper	Fraser / Cole	√		√		
\$20	Paper	Fraser / Evans					√ (40)
\$100	Paper	Fraser / Cole	√		√		

(U = unique, ie only one sheet produced)

## **NON-CIRCULATING LEGAL TENDER (CANBERRA MINT)**

Since 1980, a large quantity of Non-Circulating Legal Tender (NCLT) has been issued. In recent years, each of the NAA Coin Fairs seems to offer something new, or at least a variety.

### **\$200 GOLD**

- **KOALA**

The first NCLT (apart from the ordinary proof and uncirculated sets) to be offered was the \$200 dollar gold koala, designed by Horst Hahn, in 1980. It was sold in both proof and uncirculated versions. The coin was 24 mm in diameter, weighed 10 grams, and the alloy was 22 carat gold (91.67% gold, 8.33% copper). They were struck most years up until 1986, after which the koala series was discontinued.

- **COMMEMORATIVES**

Starting in 1981, a series of commemorative \$200 gold coins (with the same specifications as the koala) has been issued. These are:

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DESIGNER (REV)</b>
1981	Charles & Diana Royal Wedding	Stuart Devlin
1982	XIIth Commonwealth Games, Brisbane	Margaret Priest
1987	First Fleet Departure Bicentenary	Horst Hahn
1988	First Fleet Arrival Bicentenary	H. Macbeth-Roeburn

- **PRIDE OF AUSTRALIA SERIES**

Starting in 1989, the "Pride of Australia" \$200 gold coins (with the same specifications as the koala) have depicted various Australian fauna.

Designed by Horst Hahn, they are:

YEAR	DESIGN
1989	Frilled necked Lizard
1990	Platypus
1991	Emu
1992	Echnida
1993	Squirrel Glider
1994	Tasmanian Devil

### **\$100 & \$150 GOLD**

Commenced in 1995 as a replacement for the \$200 gold coin, the Floral Emblems of Australia series will consist of nine designs - one per year. Each design will feature the floral emblem of an Australian state or territory. Each will be issued as proof \$150 & \$100 coins as well as uncirculated \$100 coins. The 1995 coin, designed by Horst Hahn, features the waratah of New South Wales.

### **\$5 ALUMINIUM-BRONZE & BI-METALLIC**

Starting in 1988, a series of commemorative \$5 coins have been issued. The first three were issued in aluminium-bronze (the same alloy as used for the \$1 and \$2 coins) with a diameter of 38.7 mm and weighing 28 g. In 1994 and 1996, the uncirculated version was struck as a bi-metallic coin: it had an aluminium-bronze centre with a Austenitic stainless steel outer ring with a diameter of 28.1 mm and weighing 10.6 g; the proof coin was struck in aluminium-bronze to the same specifications as previous issues. Those issued to date are:

YEAR	EVENT	DESIGNER (REV)
1988	Opening of New Parliament House	Stuart Devlin
1990	ANZAC 75th Anniversary	Wojciech Pietranik
1992	International Year of Space	John Skillington
1994	Mary Lee - Women's Enfranchisement Centenary	Wojciech Pietranik
1996	Sir Donald Bradman	Vladimir Gottwald



1988  
Opening of  
New Parliament House

1992  
International Year of Space

### **\$10 SILVER**

Australia has issued two complete series of \$10 coins and has started a third series. Two commemoratives have also been issued.

Australia's first \$10 coin was issued in 1982 as a commemorative for the XIIth Commonwealth Games held in Brisbane. The second commemorative was issued in 1988 for the bicentennial of the arrival of the First Fleet. The first series was the State series (of eight coins) which featured the Coats of Arms of each of the States and the two mainland Territories. The second series (of six coins), "Birds of Australia", overlapped with the "State" series. The third series (consisting of four coins) features "Endangered Species" and commenced in 1995. The commemoratives and the "State" series have been struck in both uncirculated and proof versions. Both the "Birds of Australia" series and the first of the "Endangered Species" series have all been struck as piedforts (double thickness blanks weighing 40 g) as well as on standard blanks; these are proofs only (no uncirculated coins were struck). All of these coins were issued in sterling silver (92.5% silver, 7.5% copper) with a diameter of 34 mm and weight of 20 g (standard blanks).

Those issued to date are:

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>SERIES</b>	<b>TYPE</b>	<b>DESIGNER (REV)</b>
1982	(commemorative)	XIIth Commonwealth Games, Brisbane	Stuart Devlin
1988	(commemorative)	First Fleet Arrival Bicentenary	Stuart Devlin
1985	State Series	Sesquicentennial of Victoria, 1835 - 1985	Horst Hahn
1986		Sesquicentennial of South Australia, 1836 - 1986	
1987		New South Wales	
1989		Queensland	
1990		Western Australia	
1991		Tasmania	
1992		Northern Territory	
1993		Australian Capital Territory	
1989	Birds of Australia	Kookaburra	Horst Hahn
1990		White Cockatoo	Horst Hahn
1991		Jabiru	Wojciech Pietranik
1992		Emperor Penguin	Horst Hahn / Vladamir Gottwald
1993		Palm Cockatoo	Horst Hahn
1994		Wedge-Tailed Eagle	Horst Hahn
1995	Endangered Species	Numbat	

## \$1 SILVER KANGAROO

A series of "pure" silver coins, containing one troy ounce of fine silver, commenced in 1993. These coins feature a jumping kangaroo on the reverse, but each year the pose has varied. Designed by Horst Hahn, they are struck from 99.9% silver, are 40.60 mm diameter and weigh 31.6 g. Their nominal value is one dollar. These coins are struck in specimen quality - the field is frosted and the raised design highly polished (which is the opposite of the proof coins).

## MASTERPIECES IN SILVER

Commencing in 1988, a proof set of coins has been struck in sterling silver each year; they have been sold under the name "Masterpieces in Silver". Sets issued to date are:

YEAR	TYPE
1988	Bicentennial commemoratives: 50¢, \$1, \$2, \$5
1989	Restrikes, dated 1989, of the first five commemorative 50¢ coins: 1970, 1977, 1981, 1982, 1988 & a numbered ingot
1990	\$1 note (numbered ingot) and three \$1 coin types: 1984 kangaroos, 1986 peace, & 1988 bicentennial
1991	Eight coin set of 1991 with numbered ingot of coat of arms
1992	<i>Royal Ladies (40th anniversary Queen Elizabeth II's accession)</i> - four \$25 coins: Queen Mother, Princess Diana, Princess Anne, Princess Margaret, and a Commonwealth Federation Medallion
1993	<i>The Explorers (1)</i> - five \$5 coins: Aboriginal, Abel Tasman, James Cook, Matthew Flinders, and Gregory Blaxland with William Lawson & William Charles Wentworth
1994	<i>The Explorers (2)</i> - five \$5 coins: Charles Sturt, Ludwig Leichhardt, John McDouall Stuart, Sir John Forrest, and Sir Douglas Mawson
1995	<i>Colonial Australia</i> - five \$5 coins: Elizabeth Macarthur, Col William Light, The Gold Rush Era, Cobb & Co, and Charles Todd

The Royal Ladies set was also issued in 22 carat gold (91.67%) with a denomination of \$250 (diameter 28.1 mm, weight 16.95 g).

Specifications for the issues from 1992 onwards are:

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DIAMETER (mm)</b>	<b>WEIGHT (g)</b>	<b>DESIGNER (REV)</b>
1992	38.9	33.63	Stuart Devlin
1993	38.9	35.79	Vladimir Gottwald / Wojciech Pietranik
1994	38.9	35.79	Vladimir Gottwald / Wojciech Pietranik
1995	38.9	35.79	

## **OLYMPICS**

The Royal Australian Mint is one of five mints selected by the International Olympic Committee to strike coins commemorating the centenary of the modern Olympics. These proof coins are being struck by Canada (1992), Australia (1993), France (1994), Austria (1995) and Greece (1996). Designed by Margaret Priest, the three proof coins struck by Australia are:

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DENOM</b>	<b>METAL</b>	<b>DEPICTS</b>	<b>THEME</b>
1993	\$20	Sterling Silver	Four Swimmers	Friendship & Team Effort
			Medallists on Podium	Fair Play
	\$200	Gold (22 ct)	Diver	Individual Participation

A trio of issues depicting Australia's Olympic heritage are being issued from 1994 to 1996. All are struck in "pure" silver (99.9%) with the denomination of \$10. Designed by Horst Hahn, they are 34.1 mm diameter and weigh 20.77 g. Those issued so far are:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SERIES</b>	<b>DEPICTS</b>
1994	The First Champions	Edwin Flack
		Sarah Durack
1995	The Living Legends	Dawn Fraser
		Murray Rose

Two more coins will be issued in 1996 to complete the series.

## **GOLDCORP (PERTH MINT)**

The Perth Mint became a statutory Authority of the Western Australian Government in 1970. As a result of a redevelopment plan, the Australian Precious Metals Coin Programme was commenced in 1986. GoldCorp (the marketing arm of the Perth Mint) sold precious metal coins (struck by the Perth Mint), both individually and in sets (some pieces were only available in sets). While the initial emphasis was on gold, coins have also been struck in platinum and silver. All coins have been struck from "pure" metals: 99.99% gold, 99.95% platinum and 99.9% silver.

### **GOLD NUGGETS**

The first issues of the Perth Mint for GoldCorp were bullion gold proof coins, designed by Stuart Devlin, which depicted famous Australian ingots:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>WEIGHT (Troy oz)</b>	<b>NUGGET DEPICTED</b>
1986	1	Welcome Stranger
	$\frac{1}{2}$	Hand of Faith
	$\frac{1}{4}$	Golden Eagle
	$\frac{1}{10}$	Little Hero
1987	1	Poseidon
	$\frac{1}{2}$	Bobby Dazzler
	$\frac{1}{4}$	Father's Day
	$\frac{1}{10}$	Golden Aussie
1988	1	Pride of Australia
	$\frac{1}{2}$	Welcome
	$\frac{1}{4}$	Ruby Well
	$\frac{1}{10}$	Jubilee

- **KANGAROOS**

The gold nuggets then changed to designs with macropods (kangaroos or wallabies) and the range of weights was increased. Again these were only struck as proofs. Those issued so far are:

DATE	PRIVY MARKED	WEIGHT (Troy oz)	DESIGN	DESIGNER (REV)
1989		1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	Red Kangaroo	Stuart Devlin
1990		1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	Grey Kangaroo	Stuart Devlin
1991		1 kg; 10, 2	Red Kangaroo	
		1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	Common Wallaroo	Stuart Devlin
1992	1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	1 kg; 10, 2, 1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	Nailtailed Wallaby	
1993	1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	1 kg; 10, 2, 1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	Whiptail Wallaby	
1994		2, 1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	Red Kangaroo	
1995	1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	2, 1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	Kangaroo	

## PLATINUM KOALAS

After an initial issue of bullion platinum coins of 1, 1/2, 1/4, and 1/10 troy ounce in 1988, the Perth Mint has struck yearly issues of proof platinum coins featuring koalas with a different design each year:

DATE	PRIVY MARKED	WEIGHT (Troy oz)	DESIGNER (REV)
1988		1/2	Michael Tracey
1989		1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	Michael Tracey
1990		1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	James Brown
1991		1 kg; 10, 2, 1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	James Brown
1992	1/4	1 kg; 10, 2, 1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	
1993		1 kg; 10, 2, 1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	
1994		2, 1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	
1995		2, 1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/10, 1/20	

## HOLEY DOLLARS & DUMPS

From 1988 to 1990, the Perth Mint struck "Holey Dollars" and "Dumps" in pure silver. These were inspired by Governor Macquarie's coins of the same name that had been struck in 1913 (discussed at the beginning of this paper). The Perth Mint pieces feature different designs each year:

DATE	TYPE	WEIGHT (Troy oz)	DESIGN	DESIGNER (REV)
1988	Holey Dollar	1	Rainbow Serpent	Stuart Devlin
	Dump	1/4	Wawalag Sisters	Stuart Devlin
1989	Holey Dollar	1	Freshwater Crocodiles	Stuart Devlin
	Dump	1/4	Wandjina	Stuart Devlin
1990	Holey Dollar	1	Spirit Men & Barramundi (x-ray art)	
	Dump	1/4	(Mimi art)	

## SILVER KOOKABURRAS

Since 1990, the Perth Mint has struck a series of silver coins with a kookaburra design that also changed each year. They were struck in both proof and uncirculated versions, the designs of which vary.

DATE	PRIVY MARKED	WEIGHT (Troy oz)	DESIGNER (Rev)
1990		1	Stuart Devlin
1991		1 kg; 10, 2, 1	Stuart Devlin
1992	2, 1	1 kg; 10, 2, 1	
1993	1 kg; 10, 2, 1	1 kg; 10, 2, 1	
1994	2, 1	1 kg; 10, 2, 1	
1995	2, 1	1 kg; 10, 2, 1	

## PRIVY MARKS

Commencing in 1992, the Perth Mint also struck their NCLT with "privy marks". The "privy marks" of the 1994 silver 2 oz kookaburras were struck on gold layered on the silver coin; these "privy marks" featured the monarch's heads of the sovereigns struck at Perth. "Privy marked" coins issued to date are:

DATE	COIN METAL	WEIGHT (Troy oz)	COIN DESIGN	PRIVY MARK
1992	Ag	2	Kookaburra	NAA Logo
				Adelaide Pound
				Holey Dollar
	Au	$\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{10}, \frac{1}{20}$	Nailtailed Wallaby	Eagle (USA)
Pt	$\frac{1}{4}$	Koala	Eagle (USA)	
1993	Ag	2	Kookaburra	NSW Dump
				Whales
				Emu
				Kangaroo
				Sydney Mint Sovereign
	1	Opera House		
	1 kg	Japanese Royal Wedding		
Au	$1, \frac{1}{4}$	Whiptail Wallaby	"Fok" (Chinese prosperity)	
1994	Ag	2	Kookaburra	Queen Victoria (Veiled Head)
				Edward VII
				George V (Large Head)
				George V (Small Head)
				1
1995	Ag	2	Kookaburra	Parliament House
				Federation
				World Vision
	Au	$\frac{1}{2}$	Kangaroo	Chinese Fortune
		$1, \frac{1}{4}$	Kangaroo	Carnation

## NOMINAL FACE VALUE

Nominal Face Values of Australia's precious metal NCLT were set by legislation and bore little resemblance to either the bullion value or the issue price of these pieces or even to each other. The denominations were

so artificial that 1992 saw a considerable reduction of the face values of the heavier gold and platinum coins as well as of all the silver coins. The following table shows the nominal face value for the various weights and metals used in these coins struck by the Perth Mint:

WEIGHT (Troy Oz)	GOLD		PLATINUM		SILVER		
	1986-91	1992-	1986-91	1992-	HOLEY DOLLAR & DUMP	KOOKABURRA	
						1990-91	1992-
1 kg	10 000	3000	10 000	3000		150	30
10	2500	1000	2500	1000		50	10
2	500	200	500	200		10	2
1	100		100		1	5	1
1/2	50		50				
1/4	25		25		0.25		
1/10	15		15				
1/20	5		5				

# **ACR COMPETITION 1967**

## **UNOFFICIAL GOOSE PATTERN CROWN**

As a preliminary to its campaign for a one dollar coin, the Australian Coin Review launched a competition, in December 1966, for a suitable design. There were prizes for first, second and third, with an additional prize for the winner if this design was struck. By public demand, the deadline was extended and the prize-winners were announced in the August 1967 *ACR* (which also listed all the hundreds of entrants). The winner was the well known medal designer, Andor Mezaros. His design featured a flying goose, reminiscent of the Canadian Confederation Centennial dollar of 1967. It was struck in both proof and uncirculated versions in several metals with the majority being in silver. The obverse design features the numerals "100", with the result that it is often, incorrectly, referred to as a pattern.

## **FINAL COMMENTS**

I have not dealt with patterns or similar items. The Royal Australian Mint certainly struck many of these, particularly in the late 1960's. Likewise the Note Printing Branch printed various trials.

"Nothing to collect" or "Not worth collecting" are comments that were heard back in the late 1960's. I certainly think there is plenty to collect, maybe too many issues. Just to put together a date set of the coins issued for circulation from 1966 to 1995, without worrying about the "privy marks" of the various mints, or the mintmarks of the Royal Show dollars, would be 169 coins; there have also been 28 proof sets and 38 uncirculated sets. Add to that the many NCLT issues from both Canberra and Perth and there are still the notes - 71 of which are required for a signature / type collection (not including replacement notes, thread location changes, serial numbering varieties, "year" issues, dated notes, etc).

As always, it is up to the individual to determine what he/she wants to collect. Decimal currency certainly provides a good range.

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"*Banking in Dollars and Cents*", Decimal Currency Board

"*Currency Act 1965*", (and amendments)

"*Currency Regulations 1966*", (and amendments)

"*Decimal Currency Board (Abolition) Act 1969*"

"*Dollars & Cents & You*", Decimal Currency Board

"*Mint Issue*", Royal Australian Mint, various issues

"*Notes on Decimal Currency*", Australian Inter-Bank Decimal Currency Committee

*"Noteworthy"*, Note Printing Australia, various issues

*"Reserve Bank Act 1959"* (and amendments)

*"The Australian Numismatic Post"*, GoldCorp, various issues

*"The Golden Rules of Decimal Currency Conversion"*, The English  
Scottish & Australian Bank Ltd

Various brochures and information sheets published by the Royal  
Australian Mint, Note Printing Australia (formerly the Note Printing  
Branch), and GoldCorp



# AUSTRALIAN DECIMAL CURRENCY MEDALS

by Bart Stoyles NAV 648  
(from the Archives)

*[This article was originally published in Australian Numismatist, Vol 22 n° 10, Nov 1968]*

Bart Stoyles (formerly Stoyanovic) is no longer a member of the N.A.V. but he has kept up his interest in numismatics and, for some years now, has been writing a numismatic history of Yugoslavia and the countries that went to make up that land. Those countries have recently broken away from the union and are once again Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia, Herzogovina and Montenegro. Some of those countries have been involved in what are really religious wars but our papers and politicians call it "ethnic cleansing"; Hitler was more direct when he described such actions as "purifying the land for the master race" - it still means getting rid of your neighbours who have different beliefs. However, that is not the subject under discussion in this paper. This paper deals with our peaceful changeover from one currency system to another.

This paper was delivered to the N.A.V. in 1970, at a meeting held in the Theatre of the Science Museum. Although it was only four years after Decimal Changeover, some of the history of the medals had already been lost and the paper shows the need to accurately record events, numbers, styles of finishes and designers of medals. The medals that were issued at that time (1966) are given in an alphabetical listing of the various clubs concerned.

## AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY - Sydney, NSW



Obverse: At centre: modern coining press in right foreground, classical notion of ancient times with a coiner hand striking a piece by using a hammer, pile and trussel in left background; around above: ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT; in the exergue: OPENED 26 FEBRUARY 1966

Reverse: At centre: TO / COMMEMORATE / THE CONVERSION / TO / DECIMAL CURRENCY, / 14 FEBRUARY, 1966; around above: THE AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Designer: ANS Council

Diameter: 34.5 mm

Number Struck: Bronze 500  
Silver 450

Struck by: Amors, Sydney

Issue Price: Bronze \$ 1.00  
Silver \$ 5.00

Notes: Some were sold in pairs and the rest singly. The medals were edge numbered and the silver were marked as such at a fineness of .999 . The medal was supposed to commemorate the opening of the Royal Austrlian Mint, Canberra, and Decimal changeover but collectors will immediately see a mistake here in the date given - 26th instead of 22nd. Pair number one was given to the Royal Mint

and pair number two was presented to the Museum of Applied Arts and Science in Sydney.

## **BENDIGO & DISTRICT COIN CLUB - Bendigo, Vic**



Obverse: At centre: feather-tail glider possum, same as on one cent coin, enclosed in a dotted circle; around above: • TO COMMEMORATE CONVERSION TO DECIMAL CURRENCY • ; below: 1966

Reverse: At centre: Alexandra Fountain in Bendigo; around above: BENDIGO & DISTRICT COIN CLUB AUSTRALIA; around below: ALEXANDRA FOUNTAIN

Designer: Stokes & Sons, Melbourne

Diameter: 34 mm

Number Struck: Bronze 300  
Silver 200

Struck by: Stokes & Sons, Melbourne

Issue Price: Bronze \$1.25  
Silver \$2.50

Notes: The Alexandra Fountain has since appeared on a number of other medals of the Bendigo & District Coin Club. The medal was designed by an artist of Stokes' staff

## GEELONG NUMISMATIC SOCIETY - Geelong, Vic

- Obverse: Coat-of-Arms of the City of Geelong, motto in a scroll below shield: BY THE RIGHT USE OF GOD'S GIFTS
- Reverse: At centre: TO / COMMEMORATE / ISSUE OF / DECIMAL CURRENCY / 14<sup>TH</sup> FEB. 1966; around above: GEELONG NUMISMATIC SOCIETY; around below: AUSTRALIA; below: K.C.L. MELB.
- Designer: Phillips (die sinker: Ulrich)
- Diameter: 38.5 mm
- Number Struck: Copper 200  
Silver 100  
Gold 1 (possibly 2)
- Struck by: K. C. Luke, Melbourne
- Issue Price: Copper \$3.00  
Silver \$5.25  
Gold \$150.00

Notes: All medals are serially numbered. The copper pieces have a dark bronze finish. The gold is 18 carat. The first 50 were in double boxes, the others singly. One single medal was presented to the first baby born in Geelong after midnight on 13th/14th February 1966 (Decimal Day). Two copper medals were presented to the Royal Mint in Canberra. This was the first of the Decimal medals to be made by any society. The Coat-of-Arms of the City of Geelong was probably used before the GNS received official permission to do so.

**MELBOURNE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY - Melbourne, Vic**



Obverse: At centre: Plaque framed by leaves on both sides with TO / COMMEMORATE / THE INTRODUCTION / OF / DECIMAL / CURRENCY / INTO / AUSTRALIA / FEB 14<sup>TH</sup> / 1966 ; around above: STRUCK BY MELBOURNE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY ; below: decorative leaves

Reverse: MELBOURNE / NUMISMATIC / SOCIETY / FOUNDED / 1965 ; decorative scroll in background

Designer: E. (Ted) Phillpotts

Diameter: 39 mm

Number Struck: Bronze 80  
Silver 80

Struck by: Stokes & Sons, Melbourne

Issue Price: Bronze \$3.00  
Silver \$5.25

Notes: All medals are serially numbered.

## NEWCASTLE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY - Newcastle, NSW

Obverse:	At centre: Map of Australia with rays spreading from Newcastle; around above: AUSTRALIA; below: boomerang inscribed NEWCASTLE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
Reverse:	Top Half: RES NUMORIA COMMUTATE <sup>1</sup> / L.S.D. in old English characters; Bottom Half: TO / DOLLARS & CENTS / 14 <sup>TH</sup> FEB 1966
Designer:	Ted Hufnus
Diameter:	39 mm
Number Struck:	Bronze 400 Silver 180 Gold 23 <sup>2</sup>
Struck by:	Amors, Sydney
Issue Price:	Bronze \$3.00 Silver \$5.25 Gold \$50.00

Notes: All silver medals were inscribed "Silver" on the edge and were numbered. This medal is another where the obverse and the reverse have been confused. Technically, the obverse is the side bearing reference to the issuing authority<sup>3</sup>. The designer is unknown, even though research was done on it only four years after the event<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Res Numoria Commutate - *Res* can mean "this, an event, circumstance, fact, a condition" and in this case refers to an event. *Numoria* - refers to money (from the Greek). *Commutate* (or possibly more correctly, Conmutate) is a "sharing, a reciprocal interchange, an alteration, different, successive ". The full term could be translated "This event (or thing) is for a change in the money"

<sup>2</sup> The gold pieces are far too cheap to be of 22, 18 or even of 9 carat, and may only be gold-plated but I am not sure of that

<sup>3</sup> As a usual rule, the obverse of a coin or a medal is the one bearing the name of the issuing authority - although it is not always so. Les Carlisle, in his "Australian Commemorative Medals and Medalets from 1788" follows this rule. Sometimes it is not possible to determine which is which

<sup>4</sup> The Medals are now known to have been designed by Ted Hufnus and they were made by Amor, not by Stokes as originally recorded

**SYDNEY COIN CLUB - Sydney, NSW**



Obverse: At centre top: Arms of the Sydney Coin Club supported by a kangaroo and an emu above £ TO \$; at centre in a crescent: miniatures of last sterling coins (clockwise) 6d, ½d, 1d, 2/-, 1/-, 3d; around above: :SYDNEY COIN CLUB: COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION:; around below: SERIES N<sup>o</sup>2

Reverse: At centre top: miniature of decimal 50 Cents between 19 and 66; at centre in a crescent: miniatures of decimal coins (clockwise) 5c, 10c, 20c, 2c, 1c; around above: •DECIMAL CURRENCY CHANGEOVER•; around below: :14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY:

Designer: n/a

Diameter: 35 mm

Number Struck:	Bronze	50
	Cadmium Plated	n/a
	Silver	50

Struck by: Unknown

Issue Price:	Bronze	\$4.50
	Cadmium Plated	\$4.50
	Silver	\$7.50

Notes: This is another medal where the obverse and reverse are confused. The true obverse is the one displaying the Club's arms. Although

research was done in 1970, the designer of this piece was already unknown, as were striking numbers.

**RENNICKS / STERN ISSUE - Adelaide, SA & Melbourne, NSW**

Obverse: At centre: Pair of hands placing die making materials in a press; around above: THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT, CANBERRA; bottom: \* 1965 \*; inner circle: OPENED BY H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH 22ND FEBRUARY;

Reverse: At centre: in a wreath and between Australian animals ISSUED FEBRUARY FOURTEENTH; around above: AUSTRALIAN DECIMAL COINS; bottom: \* 1966 \*

Designer: Unknown

Diameter: 39mm

Number Struck: Bronze 6000  
Silver 3000  
Gold 24<sup>5</sup>

Struck by: Stokes & Sons, Melbourne

Issue Price: Bronze \$4.00  
Silver \$10.00

Notes: The pieces were serially numbered, with the silver being marked "Stgsl" just above the date, and issued in a presentation case. The names of the issuers does not appear on the medal.

**Archivist's note:** *Although the official date for Decimal changeover was Valentine's day, the souvenir packs were distributed on 4th February.*



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<sup>5</sup> Apparently, a total of 24 medals was struck in Gold, with an issue price of \$60 (9 ct) and \$110 (18 ct)

# WARRNAMBOOL AND EAGLEHAWK, A NUMISMATIC TALE OF TWO TOWNS

by Peter B. Wall, NAV 323

*[The following paper was given at the Numismatic Symposium in Warrnambool on 28th January 1995, arranged by and for members of the Numismatic Association of Victoria and the Numismatic Society of South Australia. On this occasion seven speakers delivered a total of eight papers, most being accompanied by a supporting exhibit.]*

When I learned that we would be meeting together today in the Western District coastal city of Warrnambool, I decided to look at my meagre collection of medalets and see what ideas for my talk (or rather paper) would result. I knew I had a couple of Warrnambool medalets and I definitely had both examples of the penny tokens issued by the two token issuing tradesmen in Warrnambool. Like others among you here today, I am keen on the Australasian tradesman's token series.

During 1994, I had bought a particular Eaglehawk penny token which meant that I now had examples of the only two token issuing tradesmen in the central Victorian gold town of Eaglehawk.

When I looked, I found that I had medalets commemorating two events celebrated in Warrnambool and, by chance also, two medalets commemorating events celebrated in Eaglehawk. So I thought I would speak to you about these eight items as they relate to Warrnambool and Eaglehawk, not so much by way of comparison, but simply to see if there are any similarities. Next, I decided to go up to Eaglehawk, now a suburb of Bendigo, for a few days of research. I must say at the outset that I have not done the same for the Warrnambool items, and therefore have nothing original to add to their story beyond the research of others, particularly the excellent article "Two Tokens of Australia Felix" by my friend Jeff Turnbull, that appeared in the September 1992 issue of the Australian Coin Review. So, here is "Warrnambool and Eaglehawk, a Numismatic Tale of Two Towns" - The two token issuers in each of these towns and the two medalets from each, in my collection.

First, the token issuers for Warrnambool:

WILLIAM BATEMAN Jr & Co., Importers and General Merchants who conducted their business from premises in Banyan Street with stores at the jetty (this penny token is listed as Andrews N° 30, and note that on these tokens Warrnambool is spelt with one "R"). It might be fair to call William Bateman Jr the "Alan Bond" of his day. In the year that the tokens are dated, 1855, Bateman's company had liabilities amounting to £100,855. But in September of that year, the Bank of Australasia refused Bateman's request for more credit. In short, the company's businesses were closed on 26th September 1856, bringing down with it ten other traders in Warrnambool. In December of 1856, formerly "respected" Town Councillor Bateman's dealings were judged to be fraudulent. Later, after a further unsuccessful venture, this time in the potato buying business around Warrnambool, he left the colony for New Zealand, and later again he was heard of in South America.

The other token issuer in the town of Warrnambool was W. W. JAMIESON & Co., Storekeepers of Liebig Street (spelt LIEBEG on the tokens, Andrews N° 299, dated 1862). William Wilson Jamieson came to Warrnambool in 1857, carried on a successful business and was prominent in civic affairs, being a councillor for a total of 15 years, and Mayor twice, from 1866-68 and 1872-73. He was Grandmaster of the Oddfellows Lodge and laid the foundation stone of their hall in Warrnambool in 1868 (I'll try to track it down this weekend). W. W. Jamieson died in March 1882, and is buried in the Warrnambool cemetery.

In 1855, Warrnambool was a small port surrounded by good farming land, boasting a pioneer population of 1,349 people.

The municipality of Eaglehawk, a part of the Bendigo goldfields and on the border of the Whipstick forest, embraced an area of 3,640 acres, and in 1862, the year it was declared a Borough, it had a population of between 7,000 and 8,000 souls, with the number of rateable houses being 1,376.

Now for the token issuers of Eaglehawk. Firstly, ROBERT GRIEVE, Wholesale & Retail Grocer (his penny tokens are listed as N° 153 and 154 in Andrews, all dated 1862, but N° 154 is a later production. It is worth mentioning here that the obverse die for the Grieve penny token is housed on display in the Jessica & Paul Simon Gold Pavilion in Ballarat). In common with many prominent businessmen of his time, Robert Grieve interested himself in civic affairs. He nominated for the position of

Councillor at the first elections for the Borough of Eaglehawk, held on 4th September 1862. He received the second highest number of votes. Grieve lived and conducted his grocery business in Eaglehawk from 1853 till the mid 1860's when he sold up to his brother Thomas and moved to Melbourne. I have been unable to locate the site of his grocery store which, according to Frank Gardner in 1913, was reliably reported as still standing.

On display in the Eaglehawk Town Hall is a photographic record of prominent Eaglehawk citizens (all male) who were pioneers of the district. There, Robert Grieve has his photograph with the date 1853 for the year of his arrival. Photographed also and bearing the same date of arrival in Eaglehawk are J. J. (note J. J.) Williams and his brother G. Williams of the firm J. W. & G. WILLIAMS, the other Eaglehawk token issuer (their penny token, Andrews N<sup>o</sup> 638, describes the business as Grocers, Ironmongers & Drapers, Wine, Spirit and Colonial Produce Merchants, Gold Office Eaglehawk). The Gold Office, hence the business premises of the brothers John and George Williams, is still standing in Eaglehawk on the southern corner of High and Napier Streets. Today, the building is occupied by the financial consultants Don Valentini & Associates, and is but a stone's throw from the Town Hall (this intersection by the way, is remembered for being the terminus for the old Bendigo-Eaglehawk tramline). John Williams was Mayor of Eaglehawk twice from 1868 to 1870. The business partnership as general storekeepers continued until 1876 when they separated, John retaining the old store and George opening a new store elsewhere in Eaglehawk. John Williams died in 1883. George Williams, who had taken no part in public affairs, died around 1909.

Moving on to the medalets of Warrnambool and Eaglehawk, two each, that I have in my collection. In chronological order:

The first is for the Warrnambool Industrial and Art Exhibition of 1896. This is a 22 mm medalet (listed in Carlisle as 1896/4), which I have in white metal and also in gilt bronze. They each have different reverses. The white metal piece has the wording "Struck at the Exhibition Mint" around a shield of arms of the Colony of Victoria, with Emu and Kangaroo supporters to the right and left respectively. The gilt piece has no wording, only the same shield of arms, without bearers, surrounded by six flags representing the Australian Colonies. The common obverse shows an apparently impressive Exhibition Building behind a row of trees (hopefully

during this weekend, I will be able to find out more on the issue of this scarce medalet, the centenary of which is not far off!).

One year later, 1897, Queen Victoria reached her 60th year of reign - her Diamond Jubilee. This occasion was celebrated widely with the issue of medalets by many towns and cities throughout Australia, especially in the prosperous and populous Colony of Victoria. The civic authorities in both the towns of Warrnambool and Eaglehawk decided that their good citizens must not miss out on a tangible souvenir of the occasion. Nor were the Mayors of these two municipalities going to miss out on the opportunity of having their names recorded for posterity. Mayor W. J. HICKFORD has his name prominently shown on the reverse of the 1897 Warrnambool medalet of 31 mm diameter (Carlisle 1897/70); and Mayor E. C. BROWN is remembered on the reverse of the Eaglehawk issue for the same celebratory event (Carlisle 1897/31). Both of these medalets display the British Imperial coat of arms surmounting symbols of local significance. In the case of Warrnambool, these symbols are a sailing ship and a sheaf of wheat, and the encouraging words "BY THESE WE FLOURISH". Appropriately an eaglehawk with wings outstretched is shown between a mining windlass and an engine-house on the Eaglehawk medalet. But there is no distinctive motto of encouragement, though.

E. C. BROWN, Mayor 1896-97, and a pioneer settler of the town in 1853 whose photo is with the other pioneers, was also a man of importance for 40 years in Eaglehawk - the local undertaker. Incidentally, his grave is to be found in the local Eaglehawk cemetery.

Finally, when the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) came to Australia in 1920 and visited Melbourne, Geelong and Bendigo, he just had to visit Eaglehawk, didn't he? And local blacksmith and three time Mayor of Eaglehawk, Robert Murdoch JP just had to have his name on the 27 mm medalet (Carlisle 1920/7) to be presented to the local children, on the occasion of the visit in June 1920. I am wearing this medalet today just as some proud citizen of Eaglehawk may well have done. Next to it is a button badge bearing a portrait of the young and popular Edward, Prince of Wales. It was in the stockbook of a member of the Bendigo and District Coin Club when I visited that group late last year. Although a little discoloured from the passing time, I feel sure it was worn with pride by a loyal Bendigo or Eaglehawk resident when the Prince made his brief visit to the region 75 years ago.

So now to round up my talk on "WARRNAMBOOL AND EAGLEHAWK, A NUMISMATIC TALE OF TWO TOWNS". Both Warrnambool token issues were struck by Ralph Heaton & Sons, Birmingham, England. The Williams of Eaglehawk token was produced in England by an as yet unknown manufacturer, but we know that Robert Grieve's tokens were made by Thomas Stokes in Melbourne. All the medalets that I have mentioned for both Warrnambool and Eaglehawk were struck by the firm of Stokes & Sons of Caledonian Lane, Melbourne. This includes the unmarked Warrnambool 1896 Exhibition pieces. Everything points to the dies at least having been made by Stokes & Sons, even though Les Carlisle in his first edition of "Australian Commemorative Medals and Medalets from 1788" states the mint and maker's name as "not known".

Well, Warrnambool has certainly progressed and grown since 1855 to become the modern, prosperous regional city that it is today. Eaglehawk, on the other hand, having gone through a period of stagnation due to the decline of its gold industry, is today little more than a suburb of Bendigo with "olde worlde" character going back to the early 1860s. If in my talk you have found any similarities, numismatically that is, between the towns of Warrnambool and Eaglehawk, then you have received a bonus. I thank you for your attention.



# THE MING DYNASTY'S FIRST EMPEROR HIS CAPITAL CITY AND COINAGE

by Peter Goldsmith, NAV 1023

I must start by saying that this brief paper is the result of my having had the good fortune to be selected to work in Nanjing, China, for most of 1983. To those responsible for my selection, many thanks, because my interest in Chinese coins, particularly those of the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644) began during this period.

My English interpreter and good friend, Wang Chao Dong, who has access to historical records held within the Museum of Nanjing has provided me with much of the following information.

It seems that the legendary "Yellow Emperor" Huang Ti, regarded as the ancestor of all emperors, started things rolling in the 21st. Century BC when the Xia Dynasty came into being. Twenty-five Dynasties followed during which time China was ruled by more than 600 emperors. Endless wars have shifted the centre of power from one place to another. This led to over one hundred ancient capitals being established at various times and in equally various parts of China. The five most famous of these are Anyang, Xian, Luoyang, Nanjing and today's capital, Beijing.

In this paper I hope to interest you in Nanjing (literally "Southern Capital") and in the life and coinage of Tai Zu, founding emperor of the Ming Dynasty. "Ming" translates as "Bright" or "Brilliant" and Tai Zu was certainly both. Born into a peasant family, he became many things during his life. As a young man he tended livestock, then became successively, a mendicant monk, a bandit, a rebel and an army chief! In this last role he defeated the Mongol Yuan Dynasty armies and on capturing Beijing in 1368 became the first Ming Emperor. For a while he was known as "The Beggar King" because of his mendicant years. He was extremely popular with the masses due to this and also the fact that he was Chinese rather than Mongol meant that native rule had returned to the country.

Tai Zu's capital, Nanjing, was one of the earliest cities in China's history and is today the capital of Jiangsu Province. I would say that "big" is the best word to describe most things found in and around Nanjing. The city is

situated on the southern part of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River, the estuary of which is 96 kilometres wide. Ocean liners are able to navigate its course for up to 1610 kilometres inland, and at times of high water the volume of its flow is such that over 40 kilometres out to sea, fresh water is still to be found.

Nanjing has also the tallest building in China, the Jinling Hotel. The whole top floor, comprising the bar and restaurant, slowly revolves giving ever-changing views of the city and the countryside. Illustrated is a medallion presented to me at the opening of this building in 1983. It is 32 mm in diameter and is made of aluminium with a gilt finish. The obverse shows the Jinling Hotel, on the reverse are the words "Welcome, Nanjing, China" around the Jinling logo.



The old city wall that Emperor Tai Zu had built is, for the most part, intact. It has a perimeter of 33 kilometres and at the time of completion encircled the largest walled settlement on earth. The average height of the walls is 12 metres and the thickness 8 metres. Its central gate, the Zhonghua Men, has two tiers, with 27 tunnels in which several thousand soldiers could be hidden during times of war.

Tai Zu's huge and impressive tomb is situated on the eastern out-skirts of Nanjing, at the southern foot of Zijin (translated as Purple Mountain). It is so impressive that when viewed from the observatory on top of the mountain it looks like part of the range. It is adjacent to the tomb of an earlier Emperor, Sun Quan, of the Three Kingdoms period (220 - 265 AD). Tai Zu deliberately selected this site in order to have the company of Sun Quan, saying, "Someone to guard over us" - "us" meaning his wife the Empress Ziao Zi and himself, when their time came. The tomb's construction began in 1381 for the ailing Empress who died in 1382 and

was completed in 1383, with connecting chambers for the Emperor Tai Zu himself who lived till 1398.

A story has persisted over the centuries about vast amounts of gold believed buried in his tomb with him - such things as solid gold utensils, chopsticks, dinner plates and so on. The chamber walls are said to be virtually sheeted with gold but no historical documents have survived to prove or disprove these tales.

However I find this interesting because the city of Nanjing has over the ages, been known by many names. One of these was "Jinling-Yi" which translates as "First Golden Mausoleum" or "City of the Gold Tomb". This suggests to me that there may be some truth in the stories and it is almost certainly the reason why the legend has persisted for so long.

Once I suggested that the tomb be opened for public viewing making it as great a tourist attraction as the Entombed Warriors uncovered at Xian in ShaanXi Province. The authorities replied, "Perhaps". Actually it may never be opened because I was told of what happened at Beijing with the opening of the mausoleum of another Ming Dynasty Emperor, Wan Li. At the moment the outside air entered, the important papers, documents scrolls and so on, housed inside turned to fine powder and floated away with the breeze. It is therefore unlikely that future "powers to be" will consider opening Tai Zu's tomb unless a way is found of preserving those papers and scrolls known to exist inside it.

Apart from his tomb and the city wall he had built little remains today of the Ming Dynasty's first Emperor. His once magnificent, lavishly furnished Imperial Palace was completely destroyed by the Qing army when Nanjing was captured in 1645.

Fortunately for numismatics the Emperor Tai Zu's coinage has survived and apart from the very scarce pieces, many are still available for a modest outlay.

All of China's emperors have had, or been known by many names. All had family names given when they were born but on becoming Emperor these names were carefully avoided and never used again. The Emperor would then be known by a Reign Title. Some emperors would adopt a new reign title each year making it possible to accurately date their coins and in one instance to the exact month of issue. When an Emperor died it was considered unlucky to ever use either the family name or reign title again,

and they would be known thereafter by a Tomb name or a dynastic name which was selected for them.

As you are probably aware, on Chinese coins the Emperor's family name and dynastic title can never be found. Only the reign title, and by this reign title name, with the aid of a reference book, each Emperor and Dynasty can be identified.

Tai Zu was born as Zhu Yuan Zhang, "Zhu" being his family name and "Yuan Zhang" his given names, but during his time as a military commander he was known as Prince Wu. On becoming Emperor he adopted only one reign title - "Hong Wu". According to my local Chinese Takeaway the translation of "Hong Wu" is "Brave Warrior". My Chinese - English Dictionary says it means "Vast Military". However my good friend Wang Chao Dong of Nanjing assures me that the literal translation of characters is seldom correct and that the closest meaning in English is "Extensive Prowess". At times, all the versions may be correct but the last seems to me to be more like the Emperor. As you have probably realised by now "Tai Zu" is the name by which we know him and was the Dynastic Title given him on his death.

All the coinage of the Ming Dynasty was cast and was produced in only one metal which is usually referred to as bronze but because of the composition of the mixture it is more apt to describe it as a copper alloy.

The first emperor actually put out a pre-accession issue which of course does not bear his reign title. In 1361, while still Prince Wu, he arranged for the casting of coinage with the title "Da Zhong Tong Bao" ( ) translation - Great Central Currency (see detail n° 1). Between 1364 and 1367 the principal mints at Nanjing and Suzhou produced much of this currency, with contribution to the supply of mainly smaller value coins from the neighbouring mints at Hunan, Zhejiang, Shandong and Hebei. With the defeat of the Yuan Dynasty's armies came a series of coins bearing the reign title "Hong Wu Tong Bao" ( ) (see detail n° 2) and all coins hereafter carry this title. This coinage was again produced at the capital, Nanjing, and provincial mints (Hunan, Hebei, Zhejiang, Fujian, Shandong and Guangxi). Much of the multiple cash came from the nearby mint at Suzhou, itself an ancient capital of the State of Wu ( 220 - 230 AD) and famed for its beautiful women and fine food.



Detail n°1  
Da Zhong Tong Bao  
Reverse Plain



Detail n°2  
Hong Wu Tong Bao  
Reverse Plain

Some single cash coins with the "Hong Wu" reign title and a blank reverse, which may be an indication of local casting, seems to have been coated with a heated varnish (Shui-Chi) giving them a black iron appearance. I have been unable to find out the reason for this. Perhaps an attempt to compensate for the use of inferior metal? Perhaps an experiment or trial run? Is there anybody out there who knows?

A good reference book favoured by dealers and collectors alike is "Chinese Currency" by Frederick Schjoth. It is easy to read, being in English, and lists most of the Chinese coins known to exist.

Dr Ding Fu-Bao's "Catalog of Ancient Chinese Coins" is the book I frequently use. Though it is written in Chinese and hence hard to understand, it lists coins not found in Schjoth and has the added advantage of including prices for each piece. This has assisted me greatly in determining which coins are scarce and which are considered common. The prices quoted for the coin issues of Emperor Tai Zu range from 50 cents to 100 dollars. My book being the 1940 publication, shows prices that are hardly appropriate for today's market. However, I find that multiplying by ten gives you figures very close to modern values.

Frederick Schjoth lists ten types with the title "Da Zhong", and a further twenty types with a reign title "Hong Wu". Dr Ding Fu-Bao shows 52 Da Zhong types and 63 Hong Wu, plus many varieties, for example nail marks in various positions, dots and so on.

Both Da Zhong and Hong Wu coins were produced in denominations of 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10. Of these, in both cases the easiest to obtain is the single

cash coin followed in order of scarcity by the 10, 5, 2 and 3, these last two being very difficult to find. Should you put together a collection of coins attributed to Tai Zu you will find, as I have, that the hardest to come by are the earliest Da Zhong pieces (rarely offered for sale). Hong Wu types are much easier, especially the single cash piece, and are quite often available from specialist dealers. Ming Dynasty coins are met with less frequently than those of the earlier dynasties, such as Tang, and Song. The coins of the Qing Dynasty, which ended as close to modern times as 1911, are extremely common.

The reason Ming Dynasty coins are harder to find is quite simple - fewer were made. During the early Ming period paper currency was extensively used and circulated throughout China. At the beginning of Tai Zu's reign there had been a shortage of copper for coinage; brought about by the huge export of coins that had taken place over the years with future exports contemplated. There was also widespread forgery. These factors probably contributed to the decision to switch to paper. Although I have no proof of my theory, I believe political unrest may also have played a part. Even after the Ming Dynasty was well established there were still areas of resistance to Tai Zu's rule. One such area was Yunnan Province which happened to produce most of the copper that China needed for coinage. The rebels were not driven out completely, till 1382, and it is quite likely they had been in control of the mines.

Historical records show that in 1375 coin production halted and paper notes were introduced. By the 22nd year of "Hong Wu" even small change "Wen", or "Cash" as we know it, was issued as notes and it was not until 1528, when paper fell out of favour, that the minting of coins was resumed.

Since I have mentioned forgery, I wish to inform you that the punishment for forging any type of currency was as follows:

*"Anyone who makes or uses forgeries will be beheaded and anyone who denounces or arrests the forger will be rewarded with 250 Taels of Silver. " (A princely sum in those days).*

The entire property of the forger was confiscated and added to the reward. Ancient Chinese criminals believed that if they forged the coins of any dead emperor, not only would they suffer if they were caught, but their family in present and future generations would, in the words of an old Chinese metaphor for a state of persecution, "be shamed and made to wear

tight shoes". Even their ancestors in the nether world would lose face and somehow be punished.

Though it was rare, if not unknown, for forgers to utter the coinage of dead emperors, they had no qualms about that of the living. This probably also applies to coins that did not bear a reign title such as the early Spades and Knives (which, in most cases, showed just the city or state of issue), the Ban Liang (1/2 ounce), the Wu Zhu (5 Zhu) and the "Kai Yuan" coin (which is not a reign title but translates as "Inaugural First Currency"). It was first issued by the Tang Dynasty emperor Gao Zu in 621 AD and was minted unchanged by following emperors for nearly 300 years.

All these, I suggest, would have been forged over many hundreds of years and are still being forged. The age-old superstitions today seem to have fallen by the wayside. For example, for just a few dollars you can buy cards containing coins of all 16 Ming emperors. Don't be fooled! They are not what they seem. All are copies! It states in Chinese on these cards that they are "Genuine Copies" of old coins, but in bold English lettering is written "Genuine Coins of the Ming Dynasty", the word "copies" being omitted. They are produced for the foreign tourist, no doubt.

Modern machine struck copies of old coins are also quite commonplace, being churned out at a far quicker rate than was possible with the old casting method. They are very deceptive, so look twice before buying. In Kowloon I have seen in the window of a stamp and coin shop owned by Wan Ying Man, a large cast value 10 Hong Wu coin. Interestingly, the character Wu ( 武 ) was written differently. The small strokes above the horizontal line were missing ( 武 ). One stroke was placed below this line, the other altogether absent. So maybe there is still someone out there retaining those old superstitions, reluctant to produce an exact copy of Emperor Tai Zu's coin. Then again, it could have been produced with the foreign tourist in mind. The Chinese with a fleeting glance would know it was incorrect and a copy. The tourist, on the other hand even after close inspection, would accept it as the real thing.

The coins of Emperor Tai Zu with the reign title Hong Wu have in the past played an important part in the proceedings of societies such as, to name only a few, the Heaven and Earth, Golden coin and the Three Dot Society (the triad of dots stands for Heaven, Earth and Man). All used the coins in ritual but they also constituted a badge of recognition and an identification when travelling. These groups, and many others, formed soon after the

establishment of the Manchu Qing Dynasty in 1644. Their aim was to overthrow the Qing and restore the native Ming Dynasty. The Tai Ping (Heavenly Kingdom) Society originated in Nanjing with the same aim; most of the other societies joined with it.

The rebellions fomented by these groups lasted 14 years. Six hundred cities were completely destroyed, and over 20 million people killed trying to restore the Dynasty of Brightness - Ming.

Finally, on one occasion while in Nanjing, I had the pleasure of meeting and talking to Madame Fong Fei, a lovely old lady who had fought against the Japanese when they invaded Manchuria. She spoke to me at length and with pride about the Ming Dynasty and its first Emperor and how, when fighting the Japanese, she would carry with her at all times Emperor Tai Zu's coin. She believes it gave her strength and courage and is her most treasured possession.

As other collectors of Chinese material might guess, one of my favourites is the large "Value 10" Hong Wu coin. However I don't think mine has any magical properties. Could it, perhaps, be a forgery?

***Author's note:*** *In this paper, wherever possible, I have used the Pinjin style of spelling, this being closest to the correct pronunciation.*

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