

The Numismatic Association of Victoria The Australian Numismatist



2015 No 4



Antoninianus of Caracalla

ANDA / APTA Coin Show, 22-23 August 2015

(see report commencing on page 19)



Darren Burgess (right) being presented with the Terry Pepperell Shield by Lorna Pepperell; Frank Robinson (left) is holding Darren's certificates.

*The President and Council of the
Numismatic Association of Victoria
extend the compliments of the
Christmas Season to all our members
and hope that 2016
will be a great numismatic year*

The Australian Numismatist is an official publication of the Numismatic Association of Victoria. All articles printed herein remain the property of the authors. Copyrights reserved. Permission to reprint through the NAV.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Secretary, PO Box 5016, Laburnum, VIC 3130

Meetings are held at the Celtic Club, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne at 7:45 pm on the third Friday each month (except January).

Email: navic@optusnet.com.au

Website: www.navic.org.au



www.facebook.com/numisvic

IN THIS ISSUE

Syllabus 2016	4
Obituary – Chris Haymes (member No 452)	4
NAVigator	4
Notice of Annual General Meeting 2016	5
Notice of Special General Meeting	5
Notice of Amendment to the Council By-Laws	6
Publication Changes	6
Social Media Update	7
Minutes of General Meeting No. 1027	7
Minutes of General Meeting No. 1028	12
Minutes of General Meeting No. 1029	15
ANDA / APTA Coin Show, 22-23 August 2015	19
A Survey of the Antoninianus in the Third Century	20
Syrian Archaeology	28
Advertisements	34
Victorian Numismatic Journal	34

SYLLABUS 2016

No	Date	Topic	Speaker
1031	19 February	Annual General Meeting; and Special General Meeting	----
1032	18 March	<i>Medal Making in Australia</i>	Anna Meszaros
1033	15 April	ANZAC Oration: <i>Centenary of Gallipoli Medal</i>	Darren Burgess & Frank Robinson

Obituary – Chris Haymes (member No 452)

Chris Haymes (18/1/1947 – 23/11/2015) joined the NAV as member 452 on 17 April 1964; he was thus a member for 51 years. Chris was a professional archaeologist and worked at Melbourne University. He had many interests – archaeology, art, history, numismatics, science, teaching, rock and roll, historic travel, hockey, golf, good food and good wine.

Chris was a Science teacher and he excelled academically. Later in life, being struck with Hodgkin's lymphoma, he was forced to resign from his school teaching post. He also was a teacher of Chemistry at Monash University.

In the 1990s, Chris was Site Supervisor at excavations at Tel Nebi Mend in Syria. In ancient times, this site was known as Kadesh. He had also worked at the Hellenistic city of Jebil Khalid on the Euphrates River. In November 1996, he spoke to the NAV on these excavations; this earned Chris the Max Stern Trophy for 1996. This paper was published in the 1997 issue of *The Australian Numismatist* (and is republished in this issue).

When Chris was involved in archaeological projects in Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Greece, he was able to organise logistics and transportation, despite the harsh conditions. At the excavation sites, all workers respected him for his knowledge, his keen interest and his funny side. He always strived to learn more in the field of Archaeology.

The last NAV meeting that Chris attended was the 1000th meeting / dinner in April 2013

NAVigator

It's the end of the year and as tradition dictates it's a good time to reflect on the year that's past and the year to come. Despite losing some friends along the way, we managed to increase our membership this year, for the first time in quite a while. This is down to a number of factors and none more so than Tony Gordon, whose business development expertise and ebullient personality we will continue to harness next year.

I'd also like to thank our outgoing Treasurer, David Likar, for all his hard work over the last couple of years, with a steady hand on the purse strings. His initial idea for our latest commemorative medallion was certainly a good one as it's been a real critical and financial success.

Also instrumental in the success of the Gallipoli Centenary medallion was the design, which was mainly down to Frank Robinson, who also continues to be a wealth of knowledge of all things procedural as well as putting in the enormous effort that is required to edit and produce the NAV Journal.

Frank and Bill Xynos have been instrumental in overseeing the transition to the new Victorian Numismatic Journal, which continues our journey of closer relationships with other numismatic societies, which is something I'm very excited about.

On the horizon is our transition to incorporation, which will make it easier for us to host our own events. This will include supporting the NAA's next biennial conference, which we'll be hosting in Melbourne, in concert with the NAA in 2017.

Next year's syllabus is almost full, with a great mixture of NAV member and guest papers as well as a dinner in May to commemorate our 70th anniversary. With a full calendar and I look forward to sharing these exciting times with you, our members. Wishing all of you and your families all the very best for the festive season and a very happy new year.

Darren Burgess, President

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2016

The Annual General Meeting of the Numismatic Association of Victoria will be held at the Celtic Club on Friday 19 February 2016 at 7:45 pm.

The annual reports from Council, and the budget for the financial year 2015-16, will be presented at this meeting.

The following nominations have been received for positions on the NAV Council for 2016:

- President Darren Burgess;
 - Vice-President (two) Frank Robinson;
 - Treasurer Tony Gordon;
 - Secretary Bill Xynos;
 - Councillor (three) no nominations.
-

Notice of Special General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of the Numismatic Association of Victoria will be held at the Celtic Club on Friday 19 February 2016 immediately following the Annual General Meeting.

The Australian Numismatist

This meeting is called solely for the purpose of amending Rule 3 of the NAV's Constitution. Rule 3 currently states "The Association's Journal shall be known as "The Australian Numismatist"." It is proposed that Rule 3 be amended by deleting the words "The Australian Numismatist" and inserting the words "The Victorian Numismatic Journal" in their place.

No other business may be introduced at this Special General Meeting.

Notice of Amendment to the Council By-Laws

Council By-Law 2(a) currently states "The financial year of the Association shall be twelve (12) months from 1 October to 30 September in the following year."

In earlier years the NAV's financial year was the calendar year. The change to the October to September year was made to allow time for the Treasurer to finalise the year's accounts and have them audited in time for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in January.

As the NAV's AGM is now held in February, it is now possible, and preferable, to change the financial year back to the calendar year.

Accordingly under Council By-Law 11(a) the Council has decided to make the following change, which was ratified at the General Meeting held on 20 November 2015. This change takes effect fourteen days after publication.

Council By-Law 2(a) is now amended to read "The financial year of the Association shall be twelve (12) months from 1 January to 31 December in the same year."

The financial year that commenced on 1 October 2014 will now finish on 31 December 2015.

Publication Changes

This will be the last issue of *The Australian Numismatist*. As from 2016, there will be a new publication, *The Victorian Numismatic Journal*. This new journal will be a combined publication of the Geelong Numismatic Society, Melbourne Numismatic Society, Morwell Numismatic Society, and Numismatic Association of Victoria.

This change will give all members of each society access to this new publication. As a result, they will not only know what is happening in their own society, but also in the other participating societies.

The Victorian Numismatic Journal (VNJ) will be published quarterly and will have a similar format to the current *Australian Numismatist*. However instead

The Australian Numismatist

of the full minutes of each meeting, there will be a short report of each meeting from each of the participating societies, including the NAV.

The VNJ will continue to have numismatic articles including talks given by members at the meetings of the various societies, as well as articles that members from the societies may wish to contribute. There will also be numismatic news, such as fairs, and society syllabus (where available).

To assist in paying for this journal, there will be numismatic advertising in the centre pages. Both ANDA and APTA dealers will be invited to participate, and members of any of the participating societies will be able to place classifieds for a small fee.

Social Media Update

Our Facebook page has seen a lot of activity over the last couple of months and is currently at 169 likes and a post reach this week (early December) of 465, mainly in relation to a recent news article on sunken treasure off the coast of Columbia. Our Twitter account also continues to see some good coverage with 161 followers.

Darren Burgess, President

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING No. 1027

18 SEPTEMBER 2015

Location Celtic Club, Second Floor, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne
Chair President, Darren Burgess **Secretary** Bill Xynos
Present: 18 members **Apologies:** 5 members **Visitor(s):** none

The meeting was opened at 7:57 pm. All were reminded to sign the Celtic Club's Visitors' Book.

Preliminary

Minutes of General Meeting #1026 (August 2015) –The Minutes were tabled and accepted on motion moved by Jane Ventur and seconded by Len Henderson.

Council Report

The Report was tabled and accepted on motion moved by Bill Xynos and seconded by Ross Wilkinson. Bill Xynos reported added correspondence: the IBNS Melb Chapter (Aug 2015) Newsletter. Details are:

Finance and Membership (David Likar)

The No.2 Account balance stands at \$10,336 as of 24 August 2015. Incoming funds totalled \$3,956, consisting of \$3,790 in medallion sales, \$36 in 2015

The Australian Numismatist

miscellaneous items at the ANDA Fair, a donation of \$50 and \$45 from August's Tender Sales. Outgoings totalled \$6,767 that relates directly to the Adelaide Mint's bill for the production of our 'Centenary of Gallipoli' medal. So far, we have sold 19 silver and 31 bronze medals. Outstanding membership stands presently at 3.

Website / Social Media (Frank Robinson / Darren Burgess)

The usual checks of our website (navic@optusnet.com.au) continue. Our Facebook page has 99 likes and our Twitter account has 90 followers.

Publications (Frank Robinson)

The forthcoming issue under progress. The content will include a tribute to our late member Ian Young. As for the proposal for the 'Victorian Numismatic Journal' newsletter positive responses have been received from the Geelong, Morwell and Melbourne Numismatic Societies so far. A template has been developed and the Council will continue approaching prospective advertisers. An updated report will be provided soon.

NAA Affairs (Ross Wilkinson)

Ross is reporting that there is still some time for those interested in registering for the NAA Conference in Adelaide on 23-25 October 2015. So far, NAV participants will be Darren, David and Ross.

Tender Sales (Ross Wilkinson / David Likar)

Material for Tender Sales and Donation Auction are always welcomed. Regarding the Donation Auction, we have attracted about 70 items and the listing will be mailed out next week. The first Tender Sale in 2016 will be conducted in February 2016.

Medals (Frank Robinson / Darren Burgess)

The Adelaide Mint has delivered on its promise for an exceptional production finish to our recently released medal: 'The Centenary of Gallipoli' medal. Sales of the silver finish were completed in record time while the copper finish medal is currently on sale. The Council encourages all who have not yet seen the medal to visit the NAV website for images. An application form or expressions of interest can be forwarded to the NAV's official address.

The Association has also a number of previously-struck medals and it would be worthwhile to approach us for further details, including possible discounts on multiple purchases.

ANDA Show 22-23 August 2015 (Bill Xynos)

The Show has been extremely successful for the Association. Volunteering has been good while slightly patchy at times. The exhibits were adequate enough to complete the area allocated and the NAV medals and publications were fully promoted for sale. Many clubs were also promoted too. A detailed report as to the details of the Competitive Numismatic Exhibition will be

The Australian Numismatist

provided next month, but in short, for the best exhibit judged, the winner was Darren Burgess for his 'Banknotes of Bridgnorth'. His excellent display earned him the prestigious 'Terry Pepperell' Shield, proudly presented by Mrs Lorna Pepperell. For the most popular exhibit, the winner of the 'Tom May' Award was Bill Xynos for his 'Marvellous World Silver Coins'. Exhibitions Coordinator Bill Xynos is expressing his appreciation for all those who worked hard at the ticketing area, at the organiser's stand and at the club information tables.

Correspondence

Inwards:

- Bank Statement (Account #2)
- Newcastle Numismatic Society's News Bulletin (August 2015)
- Geelong Numismatic Society Newsletter (July 2015)
- Australian Numismatic Society QLD Branch News Bulletin (August 2015)
- Australian Numismatic Society QLD Branch News Bulletin (September 2015)
- Queensland Numismatic Society Monthly Magazine (August 2015)
- Tasmanian Numismatist (September-October 2015)
- Renniks Product Guide 2015-2016

Syllabus (Frank Robinson)

Details given.

New Acquisitions / Comments / Reports

Milk Tokens – Rion Van Zyl Smit presented some milk tokens from South Africa, including some for orange and guava juices. Members confirmed that it was unusual (for juice tokens).

Medallion – Ken Marshall showed a medal: Joseph Recamier – Voyages de mar de Duc D'Orleans/Hopital St Michel, 1890/As'le St Vincent, 1899 / Ambulance des Chers de Malte 1914-18.

Plaque – Bruce McElholum showed a modern plaque depicting the statue Theodoros Kolokotronis (Greek Statesman) and gave a brief biography. Perplexed about their inclusion as numismatic items (based on his experience at a past London sales that attracted disagreements), many responded that depending on the theme and purpose, they could be considered numismatic items, similar to medals.

Coins – Bill Xynos showed 2 coins he has recently acquired from his short trip to Sydney, a Vatican State copper coin and a Haiti silver coin dated L'An 14 (1807).

Coins – Frank Robinson showed some Roman coins (Gallienus antoninianus Antioch; Salonica (wife of Gallienus) antoninianus; Constantinople civic commemorative 330-346 AD, AE3), a Byzantine coin (anonymous follis under

The Australian Numismatist

Michael VII, 1071-1078AD), two English coins (James I, Lennox farthing type 3, Walsall Staffordshire 1811 token penny), Australian 1862 token penny by Stokes and a German 1923 notgeld note Buer-Westfalen 5 billion mark.

Awards

President Darren Burgess thanked members for volunteering and exhibiting at the ANDA Show and Bill Xynos reported the results of the Competitive Numismatic Exhibition. Darren thanked Mrs Lorna Pepperell who, at the Show, presented the 'Terry Pepperell Shield' to Darren for the 'best judged' exhibit. Vice-President Frank Robinson presented Darren with his replica trophy and the 'Terry Pepperell Shield', where his name now appears. Frank also presented Bill Xynos an award-medal for his 'Tom May Award' winning exhibit, as judged by the public.

General Business

Frank Robinson explained on Peter Lane's recent discovery of the lead striking of the Adelaide Pound that this was published on an early catalogue by James Hunt Deacon (Hawthorn Press).

Ross Wilkinson offered an apology on behalf of Peter Goldsmith who is not well.

Ken Marshall reported on a dealer selling various numismatic items close to the Frankston Station.

Bill Xynos informed members that nomination forms for the NAV Council 2016 have been distributed and should be completed and presented at the October's General Meeting.

Darren Burgess reported on the NAV participation at the forthcoming NAA Conference in Adelaide.

Frank Robinson reported on the Anzac Centenary medal sales. Darren will take some of the remaining stock to Adelaide and Ross Wilkinson will 'test' sell one on eBay. Frank will look into a CAB article.

Syllabus

The President, Darren Burgess, then commenced his presentation on the 'Melbourne City Council Collection'. The motive behind this talk was his acquisition of the City of Sydney Centennial Medallion, discovering that Melbourne Council was offered the chance to strike its own Centennial Medallion at the time. Darren's research led to the discovery of unseen items from Melbourne's collection that consists of badges and buttons; coins and tokens; city gifts; seals and dies; medals and medallions. The City's Art and Heritage Collection consists of more than 8,000 items and includes many

The Australian Numismatist

items related to ceremonial, civic functions and public events of the City, such as the Moomba Festival and the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. It also consists of a contemporary art collection which favours representations of Melbourne and city life, works by urban Indigenous artists and environmental themes.

Darren's unique privilege to access the collection for research purposes touched onto some numismatic items too. His presentation started with the Air Raid Precautions (ARP) Wardens Badges, followed by buttons manufactured by Stokes & Sons, Melbourne. On coins and tokens, a pre-decimal coin set of 1953 was found, including a pair of 1954 Royal Visit florins, a 'Peace & Plenty' 1858 trade token and an 1862 trade token 'T Stokes 100 Collins Street East Melbourne'.

The City of Melbourne became a progressively diverse city attracting many cultures from around the world. It is of no surprise that this popular city has become a sister city with others: Osaka (Japan, 1978), Tianjin (China, 1980), Thessaloniki (Greece, 1984), Boston (Massachusetts, USA, 1985), St. Petersburg (Russia, 1989) and Milan (Italy, 2004). Darren showed a 1985-dated plaque presented by the city of Thessaloniki in commemorating 2300 years since its foundation in 315BC. Other gifts (some shown) came from Trieste (medal), Ptolemaida-Greece (key), Armenia, Vienna-Austria ('Rathausmann' pin), Chile (B. E. Esmeralda medal, 1995), France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Korea, New Caledonia, Poland (Dar Młodzieży medal, 1988), St Petersburg-Russia, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Darren showed the Seal of the Town Clerk and the City of Melbourne Centenary Medallion (1942). Other medals were shown: the Calcutta International Exhibition 1884 (awarded for panoramic view of Melbourne), the Adelaide Jubilee Exhibition 1887 (First Order of Merit), the Centennial International Exhibition Melbourne 1888 (awarded to R Matthews for 'mounted microscopic specimens of local plants'). Matthews was awarded the silver medal for the 'First Order of Merit' but strangely, the Collection contained the bronze type. Other badges were the 'Victory: Europe & Pacific -1945' and the 'Queen Elizabeth II Coronation -1953'. The Collection has the 'National Chrysanthemum Society of England 1951' medal and some 1956 Olympic Games medals.

In connection to the NAV, Darren was pleased to show the Collections' NAV medal, struck for its 1964 Exhibition at the Town Hall (Carlisle 1964/4). Designed by Ray Jewell and minted by KG Luke (qty 2,037), the issue price was 3/-. The Exhibition opened by then Federal Treasurer Mr Harold Holt and attracted 3,200 visitors. Displays included Australasian tokens and early coins, Ancient Greek and Roman coins, Australian Commonwealth coins and varieties, Australian gold coins, British war medals and Australian paper

money. Finally, Darren showed the Stapley Award medal (1965), the Hairdressing Festival (1974) presented to Ron Walker, Lord Mayor of Melbourne, the Melbourne Lygon Art Festa 13/10/1988 on the visit of Italy's President Cossiga and the Glaxo Wellcome Australia Medal (1996) awarded to Michael C Berndt PhD.

After comments from members, in his Vote-of-Thanks, Vice-President Frank Robinson congratulated Darren for a magnificent and well researched presentation, revealing the City's hidden treasures. He was thanked for being able to gain access through this collection and offer us a sample that covered a wide area of numismatics and other collecting areas, worthy of consideration and rarely seen by NAV members before. Members were invited to join him in the usual customary manner.

The President closed the meeting at 10:05 pm. Refreshments were provided by the Celtic Club management.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING NO. 1028

16 OCTOBER 2015

Location Celtic Club, Second Floor, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne
Chair President, Darren Burgess **Secretary** Bill Xynos
Present: 17 members **Apologies:** 3 members **Visitor(s):** none

The meeting was opened at 7:55 pm. All were reminded to sign the Celtic Club's Visitors' Book.

Preliminary

General Meeting #1027 Minutes (September 2015) – The Minutes were tabled and accepted (m/by Len Henderson and s/by Jane Ventur).

Council Report

The Report was tabled and accepted (m/by Ross Wilkinson and s/by Frank Robinson). No matters were arisen. Details are:

Finance and Membership (David Likar)

The No.2 Account balance stands at \$4,157.20 as of 2 October 2015. Outstanding membership stands presently at 1.

Website / Social Media (Frank Robinson / Darren Burgess)

The usual checks of our website and email (navic@optusnet.com.au) are continuing. Facebook stands at 113 Likes and we currently have 134 followers on Twitter.

The Australian Numismatist

Publications (Frank Robinson)

The latest issue is now available. There will be one last issue to be released by the Association in its present format. The proposal for the 'Victorian Numismatic Journal' newsletter will proceed following the receipt of firm advertising commitments that the Council is presently entering into discussions with a number of industry representatives. Currently the participating clubs are the Geelong, Morwell and Melbourne Numismatic Society.

NAA Affairs (Ross Wilkinson)

For the NAA Conference in Adelaide on 23-25 October 2015, NAV attendees will be Darren, David and Ross.

Tender Sales (Ross Wilkinson / David Likar)

Material for Tender Sales and Donation Auction are always welcomed. The Donation Auction is ready for tonight. The first Tender Sale of 2016 will be conducted in February 2016.

Medallions (Frank Robinson)

The 'Centenary of Gallipoli' medallion sales have been strong. With the silver medallion being sold out so quickly, there are a few remaining bronze medallions available for those who missed out at the release. The medallion will be shown in Perth, Adelaide and Geelong, meaning that this issue will be most likely exhausted by the end of the year. Expressions of interest can be forwarded to the NAV's official address, or by contacting any Council member.

The Association has also a number of previously-struck medals and it would be worthwhile to approach us for further details, including possible discounts on multiple purchases.

ANDA Show 22-23 August 2015 (Bill Xynos)

The Show has been extremely successful for the Association and while we had a good number of volunteers early on the Saturday it was slightly patchy at times, especially on Sunday. The Council will review the situation in due course.

Correspondence

Inwards:

- Bank Statement (Account #2)
- Newcastle Numismatic Society's News Bulletin (September 2015)
- Geelong Numismatic Society Newsletter (August 2015)
- Queensland Numismatic Society Monthly Magazine (September 2015)
- IBNS-Melb Chapter Newsletter (October 2015)
- Email Orders for our medal

Syllabus (Frank Robinson)

Details given.

New Acquisitions

QV Diamond Jubilee medals – Ross Wilkinson presented the bronze and silver examples.

GB 2015 Set – Victor Johnson showed a Royal Mint uncirculated set with coin denominations up to two pounds, with the old and new portraiture of QEII.

Tokens – Frank Robinson showed two tokens (John Gilmore [NZ] and John Howell [Adelaide]).

'Hall of Valour' Stamps Presentation – Pat Shields showed a lovely Australia Post presentation of the 'Hall of Valour' that contained 100 stamps and pictures of every Australian VC recipient. Also, 3 WWI postcards (William Lancelot & Ernest Edward Stanley).

NAV Medals – Darren Burgess presented examples of his efforts to repatriate early NAV medals during his visit at Bathex 2015 like the silver & bronze 1954. Also, a Vic Jubilee 1887 medallette 'Shire of Maldon' and a Shropshire Horticultural Society medal.

General Business

The issue of 'incorporation' was discussed. John Chapman noted that the NAV rejected 'incorporation' for protecting the personal details of the membership. With his experience with the Bibliographical Society, he commented that there is no substantial risk if we are not incorporated. Ross Wilkinson presented his views based on his experience on local/municipal governments and supported the case of incorporation. President Darren Burgess commented that relevant information will be considered by the Council before a report is presented to the membership.

President Darren Burgess approached the new ANDA Show Organiser for presenting our case for the August 2015 Sponsorship.

President Darren Burgess reported on the positive responses received from the Geelong, the Melbourne and the Morwell Numismatic Societies on our proposed 'Victorian Numismatic Journal'. Editor Frank Robinson noted our deadlines. The first issue should be out by March 2016.

Members proposed to the President for organising the 70th anniversary Dinner (17th May 2016). Our General Meeting falls on Friday 20th May 2016 and the Council is already intending to celebrate this anniversary with a dinner that evening. Councillor Tony Gordon added that himself and Rion Van Zyl Smit will assist the VNJ by placing an advert.

Councillor Tony Gordon commented on the forthcoming Downies Auction #1021 and reported on the Geelong West Show, where we promoted the NAV.

The Australian Numismatist

Secretary Bill Xynos added that the APTA/ANDA Stamp, Coin & Banknote Show (Bayview on the Park) is on the 7th & 8th November.

Ross Wilkinson updated the members on Peter Goldsmith's health.

Syllabus

The Donation Auction was conducted by Pat Shields, assisted by Bill Xynos and Frank Robinson.

The President closed the meeting at 10 pm. Refreshments provided by the Celtic Club management.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING No. 1029

20 NOVEMBER 2015

Location Celtic Club, Second Floor, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne
Chair President, Darren Burgess **Secretary** Bill Xynos
Present: 15 members **Apologies:** 6 members
Visitor(s): Mr Antony Bassiliadis and Mrs Aiko Starkey

The meeting was opened at 7:55 pm. All were reminded to sign the Celtic Club's Visitors' Book.

Preliminary

General Meeting #1028 Minutes (October 2015) – The Minutes were tabled and accepted (m/by Vic Johnson and s/by Bill Xynos).

Council Report

The Report was tabled and accepted (m/by Frank Robinson and s/by Darren Burgess). Details are:

Finance and Membership (David Likar)

The No.2 Account balance stands at \$5184.42 as of 29 October 2015. Outstanding membership stands presently at one.

Website / Social Media (Frank Robinson / Darren Burgess)

The usual checks of our website and email (navic@optusnet.com.au) are continuing.

Publications (Frank Robinson)

The last issue should be out by early December. The Council is finalising its logistical analysis for ensuring that the 'Victorian Numismatic Journal' becomes financially viable. The participating clubs (Geelong, Morwell and Melbourne Numismatic Societies) have agreed to support the concept.

Syllabus (Frank Robinson)

Details given.

NAA Affairs (Ross Wilkinson / Darren Burgess)

A very successful conference at which both Darren and Ross were speakers. There were a variety of topics and speakers all of which was very interesting and entertaining. Darren and David attended the Friday evening Bourse and managed to sell publications and medals.

Tender Sales (Ross Wilkinson / David Likar)

The Donation Auction was very successful. We will be having a very short special sale of three items at the December Meeting. There will be plenty of material for the first tender sale at the February Meeting.

Medallions (Frank Robinson / Darren Burgess)

The 'Centenary of Gallipoli' medal sales have been doing well with interest from interstate following its promotion by Frank and Darren.

ANDA Show 22-23 August 2015 (Bill Xynos)

The Council has approached ANDA for finalising the Subscription.

NAV Council for 2016 (Bill Xynos)

With submissions closed at the last General Meeting, four nominations have been received.

Correspondence

Inwards:

- Bank Statement (Account #2)
- Australian Numismatic Society-QLD Branch News Bulletin (November 15)
- Tasmanian Numismatist (November-December 2015)
- International Bank Note Society-Melb Chapter (November 2015)
- Newcastle Numismatic Society's News Bulletin (October 2015)
- Geelong Numismatic Society Newsletter (September 2015)
- Queensland Numismatic Society Monthly Magazine (October 2015)
- Orders for our medal
- Victorian Telephone & Smart Card Collectors Club letter on Bentleigh Fairs in 2016

Matters Arising:

(a) Syllabus 2016: Frank Robinson brought to the members' attention that Andor Meszaros's grand-daughter will be the guest speaker in March 2016.

(b) 70th Anniversary Dinner: Joan Henderson commented that there was a lack of judgement in the Association subsidising the Dinner while in the past, the members always paid for their dinner costs; she added that that funds should be directed to supporting numismatic events, not 'filling stomachs'. President

The Australian Numismatist

Darren Burgess replied that he was unaware of that policy and that the Council will look into the financial arrangements regarding the Dinner.

New Acquisitions / Comments / Reports

Funny Money – Ross Wilkinson obtained some examples from his NAA Adelaide Convention trip that will be part of the Auctions schedule for 2016.

Medals – Pat Shields showed a Geelong 50th Anniversary medal (2015), State Savings Bank silver medal (1970), a German 'Hindenburg' medal commemorating his 80th birthday and an 1899 silver-gilded medal.

Notgeld / NAV Ephemera – Frank Robinson showed a Köln 1923 one billion Mark (one million million) and a one milliard Mark (one thousand million) from the recent IBNS Melbourne Convention. In addition, he purchased a group of NAV ephemera including an NAV invitation to the second exhibition (16/7/1948), a list of exhibits 21-22/10/1949 that included Bruce McElholum as a junior member (10 years old), an invitation to the opening of the NAV 1964 Melbourne Exhibition at the Lower Town Hall, plus an Association Dinner at the Commodore Hotel (18/4/1970). Finally, Frank showed a Warrnambool souvenir medallion coin.

Medals – Darren Burgess showed a Dunedin (NZ) Railway Station anniversary medal (2006), a NAV 'George Bass' silver medal and a Royal Mint trial die strike (1957).

Ancients – Bill Xynos showed his recent purchase at the ANDA/APTA Show, Ancient Greece/Macedonian 336-323 BC silver drachma.

General Business

NAV Council 2016 - Secretary Bill Xynos informed the members at the end of the General Meeting in October, the Association has received the following valid nominations for 2016 Council:

- President - Mr Darren Burgess
- Vice-President (2) - Mr Frank Robinson
- Treasurer - Mr Tony Gordon
- Secretary – Mr Bill Xynos
- Councillors (3) – none

NAV Financial Year adjustment – The Treasurer David Likar informed the members that we should move our financial year timeframe (1 October to 30 September) to a calendar-based year (1 January to 31 December), explaining that the existing timeframe has served us well because the AGM was held in January. This allowed enough time for the auditor to complete our books. However, presently, our AGM is held in February and since there is small financial activity during January, it is his view that the financial year should change to a calendar-based year and this will assist the administration

The Australian Numismatist

of our finances. Then, Darren stated that the Council considered this proposal and recommends that the **Council By-Law 2(a)** is changed from:

“The financial year of the Association shall be twelve (12) months from 1 October to 30 September in the following year” to “The financial year of the Association shall be twelve (12) months from 1 January to 31 December of the same year”.

According to **Council By-Laws Amendment 11(a)**, this motion must be ratified by a two-third vote of members present and if approved, shall become operative 14 days after publication in the quarterly Australian Numismatist newsletter.

In inviting comments from the members, Ross Wilkinson said that the process of changing this Council By-Laws clause is unworkable because by changing such clause (being an integral part of the Constitution), we also change the Constitution. Frank Robinson replied that the present Constitution clearly separates the voting process of changing Council By-Laws and Rules of the Constitution and therefore, tonight’s amendment process is valid and will not impact the Rules.

Joan Henderson added her support to Frank’s explanation in strong terms and moved for “the members to support the Council’s recommendation”, a motion s/by by Frank Robinson. The President presented Joan’s motion to the members and it was carried.

Then, Frank Robinson stated that consequently, the financial year that has commenced on 1 October 2014 will now finish on 31 December 2015.

Melbourne Numismatic Society’s Dec 2015 Auction – President Darren Burgess informed the members that the MNS will conduct an auction in December. A copy of the listing has already been tabled.

The **Geelong Numismatic Society** will have its final 2015 meeting next Friday, according to Pat Shields. The President also added that the **Morwell Numismatic Society** will have its Christmas meeting on the 7th of December.

Syllabus

The President invited member Bruce McElholum for his presentation “Survey of the Antoninianus in the 3rd century”.

(As Bruce’s talk is reproduced elsewhere in this copy of *The Australian Numismatist*, details are not given here.)

After the presentation members asked Bruce many questions, including the purchasing power of the Antoninianus. In his Vote of Thanks, Treasurer David Likar congratulated Bruce for a very informative presentation into a unique part of Roman Numismatics, including the inflationary effects on the

Antoninianus coinage and the parallel decline of its silver content. Bruce also added that the variety of reverses on Roman coins is enormous (showing architecture, deities and other thematic), making this field enormously challenging for collectors who try to just complete portraits or all Roman emperors. All present joined David in congratulating Bruce in the customary manner.

The President closed the meeting at 9.20pm. Refreshments provided by the Celtic Club management.

ANDA / APTA Coin Show, 22-23 August 2015

The ANDA/APTA Melbourne 2015 Show was held at the Bayview Hotel (Queens Rd, Melbourne) on the 22nd and 23rd August 2015. This event was acclaimed by all participants as a very successful show. The presence of key numismatic societies was strong again and it is with great satisfaction to report that the combined efforts of members from the Melbourne Numismatic Society and our Association ensured that this involvement will continue in the future. Well done to all volunteers and exhibition participants!

The Association had the unique opportunity in presenting its latest medal, the Centenary of Gallipoli, the commemorative medal that celebrated the award of the first VC to an Australian serviceman in World War I, which was to Albert Jacka. This medal was struck in silver (0.999 fineness) and in bronze finish in limited numbers. Without any doubt, this Adelaide Mint production has been the best the Association has ever arranged and the proud designer, Frank Robinson, created a design that included a miniature enamelled representation of the VC medal, making this medal very popular.

In fact, the demand for the silver finish was almost exhausted and at the Show, the remaining few were sold. As for the bronze finish, many visitors and members purchased their own example.

This show presented the opportunity for members to exhibit a numismatic display. The number of quality exhibits improved to 10 for this year.

Category 1 Coins & Tokens (1 entry)

First Bill Xynos Marvellous World Silver Coins

Category 2 Banknotes & Paper Money (4 entries)

First	Darren Burgess	The Banks of Bridgnorth
Second	Frank Robinson	Paper Money of the Empire of Brazil
Third	Jane Ventur	Paper Money of the Russian Civil War Period
	David White	The Many Faces of Simon Bolivar on the Banknotes of Venezuela

Category 3 Medallions, Medalets & Badges (2 entries)

First	Frank Robinson	Souvenir Coins & Tourist Dollars
Second	Monica de Knecht	Prince Carnival of Clubs in Victoria

Category 5 Single Numismatic Item/Favourite Few (3 entries)

First	Darren Burgess	The Municipal Council of Sydney Centenary Medallion
Second	Monica de Knecht	Dutch and German Carnival Medals & Medalets
	Monica de Knecht	James II

There were no entries in Category 4 (Militaria)

The Tom May Award for the “best of the show” as voted by the public was won by Bill Xynos for his *Marvellous World Silver Coins* that attracted a strong interest from dealers and visitors alike.

I am pleased to report that for the best numismatic display of the competition there was an equal first – *The Municipal Council of Sydney Centenary Medallion* and *The Banks of Bridgnorth*, both exhibited by Darren Burgess! – for the prestigious Terry Pepperell Shield; Mrs Lorna Pepperell presented the Shield to Darren.

My appreciation goes to all exhibitors, judges, volunteers, ANDA and the NAV and MNS Councils for making all this possible. With this opportunity, I would like to also express my sincere thanks to Mrs Pepperell and also to Mrs May, who was not able to attend to the Show.

Bill Xynos, Secretary and Exhibits Coordinator

A Survey of the Antoninianus in the Third Century

(Arguably the most unpopular coin denomination ever)

By Bruce McElholum, NAV 1159¹

INTRODUCTION

There have been numerous unpopular coins over the centuries. For Australia we need look no further than the 1937-38 crown, which so irked my parent’s generation because of its cumbersome size and heavy weight in pockets and purses. A few decades earlier there was the British double florin (or 4 shilling piece) of 1887-90, sometimes called “the barmaid’s lament” due to the large number passed as 5 shilling pieces during busy periods in public-houses. Another unpopular British coin was the “Cartwheel” 2 pence of 1797 – 2 ounces of pure copper! I could go on.

But one thing these, and other unpopular coins, had in common was that they were generally short-lived. That cannot be said for the antoninianus. It lasted

¹ Bruce presented this paper, for which he was joint winner of the Max Stern Trophy for 2015, to NAV meeting 1029 on 20 November 2015

for nearly a century, during which time it passed through a range of incarnations that mirrored the decline, the near fall and the subsequent partial recovery of the Roman Empire in the third century AD. Yes, the story of the antoninianus (or double denarius) is quite a saga.

BACKGROUND

First some background. Throughout the first two centuries AD (or CE², if that term is preferred) the Roman Empire was the world's "Super Power". The mighty realm bequeathed by Augustus (27 BC – AD 14) to his successors encompassed a vast territory spread across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Indeed the entire Mediterranean Sea was surrounded by Roman provinces, and thus became "Mare Nostrum" (Our Sea).

Yet it was not a static empire. In AD 43 Claudius (AD 41 – 54) invaded, occupied and annexed southern Britain. Early in the following century Trajan (AD 98 – 117) repeated the process with Dacia, a large independent state north of the Empire's Danube frontier, which today we call "Romania". At the peak of its power and prosperity in the mid second century, it has been estimated that the Roman Empire's total population was probably about 100 million!

Of course, such a huge entity needed a reliable currency with which to transact its immense, multi-continental commerce. Augustus satisfied this need in two ways. Firstly, the right to strike gold and silver coins (the aureus and denarius respectively, along with their fractions) was made an imperial prerogative. Secondly, the now mainly powerless Senate was granted control over the production of all base metal coins, which henceforth bore the letters "SC" on the reverse (standing for "Senatus Consulto" or "struck by order of the Senate). This dual control of the coinage was to endure for over two centuries.



Figure 1 – Caracalla, denarius, rev Venus³

Nero (AD 54 – 68) reduced the weight of the gold and silver coins and debased the fineness of the latter. This process was continued by later

² Common Era

³ All coins are shown enlarged, by approximately the same scale, for clarity

emperors until, by the early third century, the denarius (Figure 1) was only about 40% silver. Needless to say, inflation was the result.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ANTONINIANUS – CARACALLA



Figure 2 – Caracalla, Antoninianus, rev Jupiter

Caracalla (sole reign AD 212 – 217) fuelled the inflation by the issue, in AD 214 (or early AD 215) of a new denomination (Figure 2) of similar fineness to the denarius, which weighed about 1½ denarii but was almost certainly valued at 2 denarii. This new coin is today known as the “antoninianus” after Caracalla’s official name “Antoninus”. We don’t know what it was called at the time, but it is unlikely it would have been complimentary. People soon recognised that the new coin had a lower intrinsic value than 2 denarii and raised prices accordingly. More inflation resulted.

The antoninianus shows emperors wearing a radiate crown, in contrast to the laurel-wreath on the denarius. This alludes to their position as the earthly personification of the sun-god, Sol. Empresses (beginning with Julia Domna, Caracalla’s mother) (Figure 3) are shown with a crescent-moon beneath their busts. This is an allusion to Luna, the moon-goddess.



Figure 3 – Julia Domna, Antoninianus, rev Luna in biga

Before moving on from Caracalla, I would like to draw your attention to the comment of Harold Mattingly, writing in volume 5 of the British Museum Catalogue, who states that “the mature portrait of Caracalla is rendered with a

brutal realism that shocks the eye". A fitting tribute to an emperor who murdered his younger brother Geta, allegedly in their mother's arms, rather than share power! Incidentally, the name "Caracalla" was a nickname derived from a long Gallic tunic which he made his favourite apparel.

INFLATION AND COMMEMORATIVES

As the third century unfolded, military emperors and opportunistic usurpers succeeded each other with bewildering speed. All of them urgently needed money to buy the loyalty of their legions. So most new issues of the antoninianus contained less silver than the previous issue (Table 1), and this all contributed to the ever-increasing inflation of the times. Towards the middle of the century this inflation brought an end to large-scale issues of the denarius, and saw the antoniniani of emperors such as Gordian III (AD 238 – 244) (Figure 4) and Philip I (AD 244 – 249) (Figure 5) produced lighter and thinner, so that the large diameter could be maintained. But even that ruse could not be sustained for long.



Figure 4 – Gordian III, Antoninianus, rev Hercules



Figure 5 – Philip I, Antoninianus, rev Equity

The Australian Numismatist

Table 1 – Decline in the Fineness of the Antoninianus

Period	240's	250's	260's	270's
Fineness	~40%	~30%	~20%	<5%

COMMEMORATIVES

At this point I must make mention of the series of commemorative antoniniani issued by Philip I and his immediate successor, Trajan Decius (AD 249 – 251). In AD 248 Philip I celebrated the 1000th anniversary of the founding of Rome. A series of coins, including antoniniani, was struck to commemorate the event, most depicting the wild beasts (elephant, lion, antelope, stag, goat, plus the she-wolf suckling Romulus and Remus) which were exhibited in the lavish games held at the time. Curiously, the animal depicted on the reverse of the coins of Philip's wife, Otacilia Severa, was a hippopotamus!

As for Decius, he is probably best remembered for his severe persecution of the Christians, and it may have been that policy which led him to strike a series of antoniniani commemorating most of the deified emperors from Augustus to Severus Alexander (AD 222 – 235).

DEBASEMENT



Figure 6 – Gallienus, Antoninianus, rev two captives beneath trophy



Figure 7 – Gallienus, Antoninianus, rev Sol

Inflation eventually forced the debasement to a point where the silver appearance of the antoninianus was lost after the first issues of the joint reign of Valerian and Gallienus (AD 253 – 260) (Figure 6). From then on, a weak silver appearance was achieved by a thin silver wash applied to the now copper-looking flans. Diameter and weight also fell dramatically during the sole reign Gallienus (AD 260 – 268) (Figure 7).



Figure 8 – Salonina, Antoninianus, rev Venus

By the end of his reign the miserable little antoniniani of Gallienus and his wife, Salonina, had no resemblance (Figure 8) to the denomination introduced by Caracalla over half a century earlier.

It was a similar story of abject decline of the antoninianus in the separate Gallo-Roman Empire of Postumus and his successors (AD 259 – 273) (Figure 9).



Figure 9 – Postumus, Antoninianus, rev The Rhine reclining

The antoninianus was thus reduced to a mere copper or bronze coin, usually of very small module, with a light silver wash that wore off over time in circulation. To make matters worse, the antoniniani of Claudius II (AD 268 – 270) and the Gallic usurpers, Victorinus and Tetricus Senior and Junior (AD 268 – 273), were imitated in vast quantities by unofficial mints. These often very crude contemporary forgeries are called “barbarous radiates”. The situation had therefore degenerated into hyperinflation, where individual coins were virtually worthless and were probably deliberately discarded by frustrated citizens, often in large quantities.

REFORM OF THE COINAGE

But just when all seemed lost for the Roman Empire and its coinage, an emperor was installed who was to restore both empire and coinage, at least partially. That emperor was Aurelian (AD 270 – 275) (Figure 10), and he reformed the coinage early in his reign. The antoniniani were increased both in size and weight, also they were now more carefully struck from neatly cut dies, and an improved method was devised to apply the silver wash. A mark (XXI or KA) was placed on the reverses of most of the new coins. Some numismatists believe that Aurelian re-tariffed his new antoninianus at 1/20th of the gold aureus and that the marks mean 20 antoniniani = 1 aureus. Others believe that they refer to the amount of silver actually in the new antoniniani, ie 20 parts of copper to 1 part of silver. There are also other theories as to the meaning of these marks.



Figure 10 – Aurelian, Antoninianus, rev Sol



Figure 11 – Probus, Antoninianus, rev Probus and Jupiter



Figure 12 – Probus, Antoninianus, rev Roma in temple



Figure 13 – Carus, Antoninianus, rev Jupiter

Aurelian's reforms remained the basis of the Empire's monetary system (Figures 11, 12, & 13) until Diocletian's (AD 284 – 305) great reform about AD 295. Early issues of that emperor and his colleagues bear the XXI mark (Figure 14) and were minted to the Aurelian standard. After Diocletian's reform the issue of antoniniani ceased, but similar coins were struck for several years. They were of the same size as the antoninianus, had the radiate crown on the obverse, but didn't have the XXI mark on the reverse. Also they contained no silver content and were without a silver wash. These coins are called "post-reform radiates" by collectors.



Figure 14 – Diocletian, Antoninianus, rev Victory and Diocletian

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Roman Imperial Coinage (RIC)

- Vol IV Part I, Pertinax – Geta, by Mattingly, H, & Sydenham, EA, 1936
- Vol IV Part II, Macrinus – Pupienus, by Mattingly, H, Sydenham, EA, & Sutherland, CHV, 1938
- Vol IV Part III, Gordian III – Uranius Antoninus, by Mattingly, H, Sydenham, EA, & Sutherland, CHV, 1949
- Vol V Part I, Valerian – Florian, by Webb, PH, 1927
- Vol V Part II, Probus – Amandus, by Webb, PH, 1933
- Vol VI, Diocletian – Maximinus, by Sutherland, CHV, 1967

Mattingly, H, *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum*, Vol V, Pertinax – Elagabalus, 2nd edn, 2 vols, 1976

Seaby, HA, *Roman Silver Coins*

- Vol III, Pertinax – Balbinus & Pupienus, 2nd edn, 1982
- Vol IV, Gordian III – Postumus, 2nd edn, 1982

Sear, David, *Roman Coins & their Values*, Millennium edn

- Vol II, The Accession of Nerva to the Overthrow of the Severan Dynasty AD 96 – AD 235, 2002, reprinted 2010
- Vol III, The Accession of Maximinus I to the Death of Carinus AD 235 – AD 285, 2005
- Vol IV, The Tetrarchies and the Rise of the House of Constantine AD 284 – AD 337, 2011

Syrian Archaeology

by Chris Haymes, NAV 452¹

JEBEL KHALID

Jebel Khalid is a large Hellenistic site (3rd to 1st Century BC) situated on a limestone outcrop on the West Bank of the Euphrates, about 80 km east of Aleppo in Syria. At the foot of the jebel (mountain) is the village of Khirbit

¹ This paper was originally published in *The Australian Numismatist*, 1997, pp 14-20. It is republished here as a tribute to Chris who died in November 2015. Chris presented this paper, for which he won the Max Stern Trophy for 1996, to NAV meeting 809 on 15 November 1996.

The Australian Numismatist

Khalid whose inhabitants, settled Bedouin, provide the labour force for the excavations.

Jebel Khalid was founded about 300 BC by the Hellenistic Seleucid dynasty which controlled Syria and lands to the East after the death of Alexander the Great. The first Seleucid rulers embarked on large civic building programs to cement their control over Syria. They protected their river highways with military colonies called KATOIKIA, which were designed in a Greek manner by Greek immigrants. After the collapse of the Seleucid empire and the subsequent direct Roman control of the East by Pompey in 62 BC, the site was no longer needed and was abandoned.

During the Roman period of expansion in the East, new buildings were continually being superimposed on earlier ones. The Romans kept many features of the Hellenistic town plan but in most of the other KATOIKIA, such as Dura Eltropos further down the Euphrates and in all of the historically great cities of the Roman East such as Antioch, Apamea, Jerash, Aleppo and Damascus, the Hellenistic architecture has all but disappeared due to the rebuilding. However the site at Jebel Khalid has not been overlaid by buildings of the later Roman period, and for this reason, is one of the most archaeologically important Hellenistic sites in the Levant.

Jebel Khalid is 50 hectares in size and has physical remains scattered over three-fifths of this area. The site is extremely well preserved; excavations to date have concentrated on three main areas – the defence system, the domestic quarter and the acropolis – but there was also a river port, a theatre and a temple.

A four kilometre wall encircles the site on three sides, with twenty-eight towers and a massive main gate. Excavations at the gateway have unearthed the original paving stones of the road that passed through the gateway. The wall, towers and gateways are all indicative of an early 3rd century BC construction date. On the eastern side the riverine cliff face was considered to provide enough defence.

At the most elevated point on the Jebel is the acropolis, almost 450 m above river level. Excavations have revealed a number of large public buildings and a possible governor's residence. This building has a central courtyard surrounded by a Doric-order colonnade. Many of the buildings, it seems, were richly decorated with masonry-style wall paintings; overall the architecture is undoubtedly Hellenistic in design and execution.

On the north point of the Jebel, on the slope which looks towards the acropolis, lies the domestic quarter. The residential areas of towns founded in the Hellenistic period were laid out on a planned grid. The grid was always adapted to local conditions, but in itself is unmistakable. The key elements of the Hellenistic town plan are two longitudinal streets, one of which leads to the

agora or main market place. These main streets are crossed at right angles and paralleled by numerous other smaller streets. Subsequently this network divided the whole layout of the town into rectangular blocks or insulae of equal size (typically about 100 m x 60 m), giving a well-built and planned appearance to the town.

At Jebel Khalid, an entire block between four streets has been partially exposed, revealing several large houses, complete with large storage jars, cooking areas and pot stands, all found in remarkable condition in situ. The abundance of material recovered from these rooms is at times astonishing, including stamped amphora handles and numerous coins from the Seleucid period, as well as imported and local pottery. Some of the rooms held wonderfully preserved cosmetic implements of bone and bronze. One trench produced a large piece of egg and dart wall painting and the first child burial found on the site.

A most unusual rectangular area, in the centre of the insula, and cut directly into the rock in of the Jebel, may have been a meeting area or a workshop.

During the 1994 Season, some 2 kilometres downstream from the settlement, a most exciting discovery in the form of a tomb was excavated. The tomb is situated on a high limestone cliff face overlooking the Euphrates, near the small village of Shash Hamdan. It was brought to our attention by the local people who had discovered it some years before, but had not reported it to the Department of Antiquities.

The tomb consists of a huge chamber (10 metres square) which held the most spectacular examples of orientalised Graeco-Roman statuary. These statues had been carved from the limestone rock in a double register on both the northern and southern walls. Each figure was standing between two columns and dressed in sweeping drapery and fluted underskirts. In one large cavity the carved statue of a bull was uncovered, although its head had been destroyed. A woman sitting with what might have been a child was situated immediately above the bull. The figures of the top register, further out of reach from erosion and would be vandals, are better preserved than those of the bottom register.

At the back of the main room, three large burial chambers carved out of the rock contained the remains of stone sarcophagi. Much of this area was still covered with rubble from parts of the roof that had collapsed. The main room also contained the bases of six Greek-style columns, and what appeared to be an altar.

To our dismay, we discovered that tomb robbers had preceded us, and two statues in the top register had been carefully cut away and removed. Once we had cleared all the rubble from the floor, we were excited to find pieces of a mosaic floor, but again the majority of the floor had been removed by thieves

and carried away. The method of removal was apparent as we recovered among the rubble several pieces of tesseræ glued to cloth.

Who carved out this tomb is currently unknown. Further investigation has been authorised in the near future and the answer to this and other questions may then become clearer. On stylistic analysis and construction technique, it would appear the tomb probably belonged to a wealthy Roman family who lived in the 3rd century AD. The style is close to the popular tradition of the time, using familiar Greek technique with an orientalising art style.

TELL NEBI MEND

Tell Nebi Mend represents a completely different type of archaeological site to what is found at Jebel Khalid. Firstly, it is a multi-period site with habitation levels stretching back to the very beginnings of settled urban life in the Neolithic (ca 4,500 BC). In addition, it is a Tell – that is to say, a man made hill formed by continued re-building and decay of mud-brick houses.

The site of Tell Nebi Mend is best known as the Bronze Age city of Kadesh on the Orontes, scene of the famous battle which Ramses II and Muwatallis fought inconclusively ca 1280 BC. Archaeology has confirmed that the site was occupied, although not necessarily continuously, for a long period of time, from the Neolithic to the early Byzantine era. During much of this time, Tell Nebi Mend has been a site of some historical importance due to its geographic location near to the crossing of the Orontes valley by the East-West route from central inland Syria to the Mediterranean. Within this inland region ran one of the most important trade routes of the ancient world, linking Palestine and Egypt with Anatolia and Mesopotamia. This route, through the Homs-Tripoli Gap, also forms the natural boundary between the northern and southern portions of the Levant, and was the scene of numerous military campaigns between the great powers of the ancient world aiming to seek control of the commercial activities conducted along its path.

The site was obviously chosen for its location among the extremely fertile soils along the Orontes River and for its defensive capabilities. It is possible, judging from the Egyptian representations, that at the time of Ramses II's visit, the city was entirely surrounded by water, as the result of the construction of an artificial joining of two streams running south of the Orontes

The main tell is approximately 32 m high and is about 10 hectare in extent at its base. There is also a secondary tell below containing material from the Classical Period. A modern Arab village sits on the top of the main tell, but gradually the local folk are rebuilding on the lower tell.

A number of widely separated areas have been selected for excavation to ensure adequate sampling of the site. On the N-E side of the tell, in trenches I and VIII, the Neolithic, Early and Middle Bronze Age are being investigated.

Higher up in Trench II, the Late Bronze Age is being studied, and in Trench V the Hellenistic and Iron Age periods are being unearthed. On the other side of the tell, in Trench III, a complete sequence from the Middle and Late Bronze Age has been uncovered.

Kadesh was one of the most important city-states in Syria in the Late Bronze Age, figuring prominently in the accounts of the struggle of the rival empires. It is recorded that a Prince of Kadesh led the coalition of Asiatic rulers that was defeated by Thutmose III in ca 1482 BC at the battle of Megiddo; that the town was captured by the same pharaoh in ca 1474 BC, passed into the hands of the Hittites just over a century later, and was occupied again, at least temporarily, by the Egyptians under Seti I in ca 1317 BC. A fragmentary boundary stela of Seti I excavated at the site confirms this fact.

The battle that Ramses II and Muwatallis fought brilliantly but inconclusively outside Kadesh's western walls at the beginning of 13th century BC owes its fame less to its historical importance than to the very detailed descriptions of the encounter, both verbal and pictorial, left by the Egyptians at Abu Simbel, Karnak and elsewhere, and also by the fact that the Hittites left a written record of their side of the battle – the first battle where this occurs.

What happened at the end of the second millennium at Tell Nebi Mend is less clear, as it is at most other Levantine sites, and the Late Bronze – Iron Age transition is one of the major historical problems being investigated by the excavations. It is probable that Kadesh was overshadowed by the neighbouring cities of Hama and Ribla, and particularly by Emesa (Modern Homs).

A minor revival of fortune came at the beginning of the Hellenistic period when, in about 300 BC, a town was re-established at the site by Seleucus I and named by him Laodiceia after his mother. It was known as Laodiceia-ad-Libanum, to distinguish it from the many other foundations of the same name, or as Laodiceia Scabiosa, which may refer to malarial conditions in the Orontes Valley at that time. The site was probably abandoned before the Muslim invasions of the 7th century AD.

The earliest remains found so far are from Trench VIII containing Neolithic shards, including some with textured and cord-impressed surface decoration, giving evidence for settlement at Tell Nebi Mend in the first part of the 6th millennium BC. Neolithic burials have also been excavated here.

My attentions have been directed to the excavations of Trench V, on the N-E crest of the tell. The uppermost levels contain badly eroded mud brick dwellings of the Hellenistic and early Roman period. We excavated part of a narrow street with a stone lined and capped central drain, finding much Hellenistic pottery and small objects such as lamps, coins and figurines that had fallen in.

Extensive clearing of the Hellenistic dwellings was required to gain access to the preceding Iron-Age level, the main object of our attention.

So far we have revealed part of a large, well preserved, two-storied mud-brick and timber frame building dating to the ninth century BC. The main features of its floor plan revealed thus far are a cobbled courtyard surrounded by rooms, also with cobbled floors, and a staircase leading to the upper story. The staircase consisted of wooden steps set into mud brick. Other features include several ovens built next to the walls in the courtyard. This building was destroyed by an intense fire that has left its imprint on the mud-brick walls and the masses of broken pottery on the floors. Preliminary analysis of the pottery suggests a date in the 8th century BC for the destruction, but a radiocarbon date obtained from one of the burnt staircase timbers indicates that the burning occurred early in the 9th century BC. Clearly the problem of chronology needs further resolution – possibly old timbers were re-used in the staircase construction.

On the evidence of dating and the arrowheads found amongst the ruins, it is very likely that an invading Assyrian army was responsible for the conflagration. A text from Nimrud confirms that an Assyrian military post was established at Kadesh in the ninth century BC.

The destroyed building was soon replaced by a similar one, also with cobbled floors, but on a differing orientation. This building was also in turn demolished and its ruins left to decay. From the small area excavated, this marks the end of Kadesh, and there does not seem to have been any Persian occupation of the Tell – at least none has been revealed as yet. During the Hellenistic foundation of Laodiceia-ad-Libanum in the 4th century BC, the ruins were levelled and a street of houses constructed.

Pottery is represented by an abundance of generic cooking wares and rope-impressed storage vessels. Also many characteristic Iron Age Fine Wares are present such as the attractive red-shaped burnished bowls, cups and fruit stands with shallow bowl and pedestal foot. There are also some interesting painted wares and special pottery vessels such as lamps and spindle whorls. Other important finds include bone, ivory and metal objects, and part of an Egyptian alabaster bowl. The most important small finds found in the last season of work were two cylinder seals and a scarab possible of Persian origin.

Advertisements



Buying all American Silver Proof Eagle's – must have original packaging
tonygordon3006@gmail.com or phone 0426 506 498

Wanted to Buy

German colonial tokens, head tax and hut tax tokens or receipts.

Also interested in early South African bank notes (pre-1911).

Please contact Rion on vzs2000@yahoo.com.au

Victorian Numismatic Journal

The Numismatic Association of Victoria (NAV) is coordinating the production of *The Victorian Numismatic Journal* (VNJ) that will be distributed to all members of the NAV and the Geelong, Melbourne and Morwell Numismatic Societies and copies being sent to other numismatic bodies throughout Australia.

Published quarterly, the VNJ will be a leading source of news and information for all aspects of numismatics featuring timely articles from leading Australian numismatists and collectors.

With an informed readership in excess of 600, VNJ will be an effective and targeted way of reaching collectors and decision makers throughout the numismatic community.

The quality and variety of articles means that the publication will itself be collected and kept as a technical reference, giving advertisements an extended shelf life. If you are driving to build sales or increase your profile in the industry, make VNJ an essential part of your marketing strategy. To advertise, contact the NAV at the address shown on page 3.

Council Award, 2015



President, Darren Burgess, presenting Ross Wilkinson and Pat Shields with the Council Award for 2015

Certificate of Appreciation, 2015



President, Darren Burgess, presenting Scott Waterman of Universal Coins with a Certificate of Appreciation

Max Stern Trophy Winners, 2015



Ross Wilkinson (left) and Bruce McElholum (right), joint winners of the Max Stern Trophy for 2015 with the perpetual trophy (centre) and their replicas

Ross' talk, "Gallipoli – Inspiration or Lunacy", presented at the April meeting, was published in The Australian Numismatist, 2015 Nos 2 and 3.

Bruce's talk, "Survey of the Antoninianus in the 3rd Century", presented at the November meeting, is published in this issue of The Australian Numismatist