

AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST
NEWSLETTER



Short Snorters - 10 Drachmai issued 6 April 1940
Signed by members of 2/8 Battalion 6th Division AIF
during their ill-fated Greek Campaign

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<p>The Australian Numismatist Newsletter is an official publication of the Numismatic Association of Victoria.</p> <p>All correspondence should be addressed to: The Secretary, Box 4047, Frankston Heights Vic 3199.</p> <p>Meetings are held at the Celtic Club, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne on the third Friday each month (except January).</p> <p>Email: navic@optusnet.com.au Website: www.navic.org.au</p>	

Syllabus 2012

Meeting	Topic	Speaker
20 th July	Ray Jewell Memorial Meeting: Marianne	Bill Xynos
17 th August	Theme Night: Music	
21 st September	Donation Auction	
19 th October	1942 City of Sydney Medal	Darren Burgess
16 th November	To be announced	Jill Pearson
14 th December	Christmas Meeting & Awards	

Meeting Minutes – 23rd March 2012

Meeting No. 988

Location Celtic Club, Second Floor, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne

Chair President, Ross Wilkinson

Present 13 members **Apologies:** 9 members

The President opened the meeting at 7:55pm by welcoming all present.

Announcement

The President Ross Wilkinson announced that the Association has sadly lost another member in January, Mr. Pat O'Rourke. Pat joined the NAV on 18/5/18th May 1962 as member no.404 and was among the large number of members who experienced the last years of the pre-decimal currency and its changeover to decimal. Later his membership lapsed in November 1969 but in August 2000, Pat rejoined the Association as member no.1122.

The President invited members to share a few words about the late Pat O'Rourke. Member P Shields commented that Pat was a much respected numismatist with a vast knowledge on Asian numismatics. Pat was instrumental in the establishment of the Bank of China's Shanghai museum. Being a member of the Geelong Numismatic Society, Pat was well known locally. Finally, the members were told of some of his remarkable coin examples, including Sarawak tin coins. Both societies will miss him very much. The President conveyed his respects to Pat's family and called for members to observe a minute's silence in respect of our late member.

Minutes of the previous General Meeting No. 987 (17th Feb 2012)

Tabled and moved for acceptance on L Henderson's motion, seconded by J Henderson and carried.

Business arising from the Minutes - None.

Correspondence:

ANS-QLD Branch News Bulletin (3/12), QLD Num. Soc. Inc. Magazine (2/12), Newcastle Num. Soc. Bulletin (2/12), ANS Report (1-3/12), IBNS-Melb Chapter Newsletter (3/12), Geelong Num. Soc. Newsletter, Leon Morel's sale list, Hallmark Stamp-Coin-Collectables Auction 25/3/2012, Bank Statement

Business arising from Correspondence – None

Reports from Council:

Finance & Membership (D Likar) – Account balance was \$1,214.30 (end of December). Recent expense was for newsletter / postage (\$483). Outstanding membership stands at 14.

Membership Election (R Wilkinson) - The President announced the receipt of an application form for membership from Mr. Blair Alan McCall. After Council consideration, it's proposed that Mr. McCall be elected as a member. This motion was put by J Henderson and seconded by B Xynos and carried. Mr. McCall is elected as NAV member no.1149. Member R Van Zyl Smit's suggestion to invite Mr McCall was noted and F Robinson replied that he was invited for tonight.

Syllabus (F Robinson) – Some spots are still vacant.

NAV Journal (F Robinson) – Members were asked to consider entering their article for the 2012 issue. For the 2011 issue, a fifth one is expected to arrive, making the production possible by Easter.

Tender Sales (R Wilkinson) – Material is always required for the next auctions (May and July). A Donation Auction is planned for October, a date to be confirmed.

Library (P Shields) – No update

NAA Affairs (Vacant) – President R Wilkinson has stepped into the Victorian Delegate to the NAA position. Members congratulated Ross for taking up this responsible post. The NAA's AGM will be held in conjunction with Noble Numismatics' July Auction in Sydney.

Newsletter (Vacant) – Member Frank Robinson took over the editorial of our quarterly newsletter from its past editor, member Peter Hamilton. Frank promised to continue the publication's high standards. The latest issue has already been mailed out to the members and they should have their copies by now.

Website (F Robinson) – Further adjustments will be posted soon.

New Acquisitions

➤ **Notgeld One-Million notes** – Member F Robinson showed his new additions (3 from Bavaria and 3 from Saxony) from an Austrian auction house.

General Business

- ❖ **MNS Numismatic Exhibition 2012:** Member Betty Turvey announced to the members that the Melbourne Numismatic Society will hold its biannual Numismatic Competitive Exhibition at the St. Peter's Anglican Church on Saturday, the 19th of May 2012.
- ❖ **Welcoming Announcement:** Member Pat Shields welcomed on behalf of the Association our member, Geoff Thomas for his visit. Geoff was warmly applauded by all present.
- ❖ **Miscellaneous:** Mrs Turvey informed members that member Terry Pepperell had serious health problems, resulting to being aided by a dialysis machine. In addition, member J Chapman told members of John Hope's health issues. All members present expressed their best wishes for their health and hoped that they'll get better very soon. Finally, member Bill Xynos apologised on behalf of John Gerzelis for his absence, due to

damage to his house. All wished John the best for the future and are looking forward seeing him soon.

Syllabus – ‘Paper Money of Edward VIII’ by Frank Robinson

The President invited member Frank Robinson to open the Syllabus for 2012. Frank commenced his presentation that was based on a similar presentation for the IBNS Melbourne Chapter.

The introduction touched the biography of this extraordinary monarch, born 23rd June 1894 as Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David, known as David to his family and close friends.

Prince Edward of York (as son of the Duke of York) and later, Prince Edward of Wales (as son of the Prince of Wales), he was bestowed with the title of Prince of Wales in July 1911. Following the death of his father, King George V, he was proclaimed as King Edward VIII on 20 January 1936. His close relationship with an American divorcee, Mrs Wallace Simpson, almost reached the stage of being married. This was, a situation that was against the position of not just the Royal Family, but both the Church and the Government. Having to choose between marriage and kingship, Edward VIII chose marriage and decided to abdicate the throne on 11 December 1936.

The focus of the presentation was on the pictorial representation of Edward VIII on numismatic items (mainly early banknotes of Canada, Australia and British India) from his youth.

From the Dominion of Canada, his portrait as an 8 years old was depicted on the \$5 note from the Imperial Bank of Canada (dated 1902 and 1906 for Series A, and 1910 for Series B). Edward VIII's portrait as a mature man appeared on the \$5 note of the Merchants Bank of Canada (dated 1919). The source of the portrait, in uniform of Colonel of the Welsh Guards, was from a series of photographs taken during his visit to Canada and the United States in 1919.

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A slightly-modified and orientated portrait was used on the \$2 banknote for the Dominion of Canada, which was issued progressively with 4 signature combinations under 4 groups and 5 coloured seals, making a combination of 12 varieties. Frank presented some related images by Group order, with the first one starting in November 1923, the second in February 1929, the third in February 1932 and the last in June 1933. The portrait was modified for the \$5 banknote for the Bank of Canada in 1935. Edward VIII is still shown with the same uniform, but has a bare head.

In Australia, the portrait of Edward, Prince of Wales is depicted sideways in a watermarked format on the King George V banknote of legal tender series of 1933-1938. Frank showed images for each banknote from that series. Interestingly, the modified 10 Shillings note (from brown to orange-red) was issued on 19 March 1936 and continued until April 1939.

Essays with his portrait exist, with a significant one of the Commonwealth of Australia's green One Pound uniface note, hand-dated 11/11/1936, replacing the portrait of King George V on the 1933-issued note. Another example was the Bank of Canada's One Dollar banknote dated 2 January 1937 and hand-dated 12/1/1936. These essays use the portrait of Edward in uniform of Seaforth Highlanders, originally engraved for the Bank of Canada's \$5 notes. Following the abdication, his brother George VI is portrayed exactly as his brother. Further research revealed that the head of George VI was superimposed on Edward's portrait, and this modified design was used for the George VI issue. Finally, an essay was produced for the Reserve Bank of India's 100 Rupees note of 1936.

Frank's presentation was backed up with a unique presentation of rare banknotes with most of the examples depicted during the presentation. Research information and material was kindly contributed from Stephen Prior, President of the IBNS – Melbourne Chapter and Brent Mackie.

Invited for the traditional Vote of Thanks, member P Shields congratulated Frank for this impressive presentation and showed his keenness for finding information on the subject. Pat was also surprised by the superimposed image technique for the portrait of George VI, and on behalf of the members, thanked Frank. All members joined Pat in the customary manner.

The President thanked all members and closed the meeting at 9:22pm. This was followed by the Tender Sales session, conducted by Auctioneer Pat Shields, assisted by Treasurer D Likar. Refreshments kindly arranged by the Celtic Club management.

Numismatic Societies' Journals Online

The Ottawa Numismatic Society (ONS) and the California State Numismatic Association (CSNA) with the Numismatic Association of Southern California (NASC) have decided to provide free online access to their journals.

Moneta, the publication of the ONS, was first published in 2010, and that same year won first place in the American Numismatic Association's (ANA) Outstanding Local Numismatic Publication competition. "The members felt it was important for the promotion of the hobby and numismatic education to make Moneta available free to as many people as possible," said Steve Woodland, the Society's president.

The magazine-format publication is profusely illustrated with large colour images. While it is distributed electronically, it is conceived to be printed. The ten issues of 2010 added up to 282 pages, while the 2011 issues totalled 376 pages. "And we have articles in both English and French," said editor-in-chief Serge Pelletier. Money collectors and numismatists are invited to read the publication on the Society's website at www.ons-sno.ca.

The California Numismatist (TCN) the joint publication of the CSNA and NASC, has won the ANA's first-place "Outstanding Regional Numismatic Publication" award since the magazine's inception in 2004.

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All issues are available on-line for free download at www.CalNumismatist.com with the exception of the most-recent edition, which is limited to the first few pages, including the table of contents, to whet the appetite.

This follows on from a decision earlier this year by the British Numismatic Society who announced the launch of freely available downloads of the British Numismatic Journal (BNJ) dating from 1903 to 2007. www.britnumsoc.org/publications/bnj.shtml

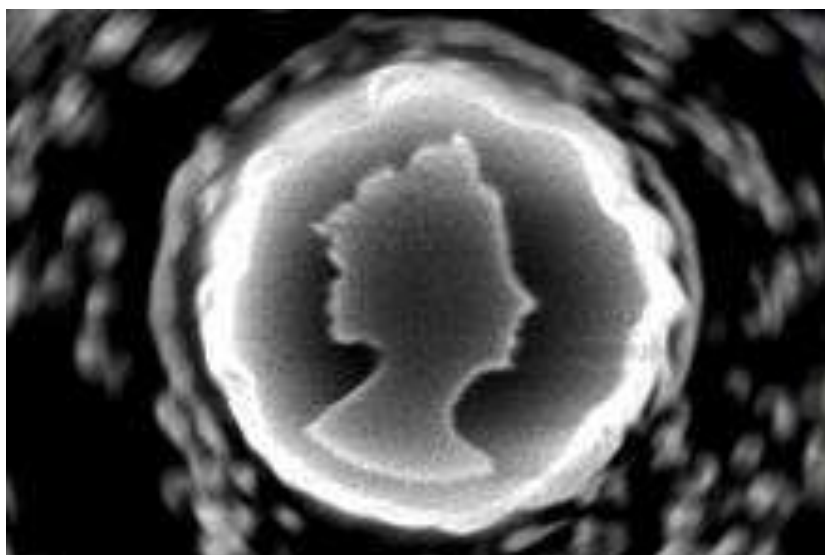
These are invaluable resources made freely available to enquiring minds and I can highly recommend availing yourselves of these repositories of numismatic knowledge. - Ed

Sourced from various articles in the E-Sylum, the e-newsletter of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society www.coinbooks.org

Diamonds Are Forever

Scientists have created the "world's smallest diamond coin" to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. They used a sliver of diamond to create the commemorative item, which features an image of the Queen's profile.

It is so tiny that about 1,300 of the coins could fit side by side on the width of the smallest letter on a 5p piece; the coin was created at the University of Glasgow's James Watt Nanofabrication Centre.



- Article from the UK Press Agency

Meeting Minutes – 20th April 2012
Meeting No. 989

Location Celtic Club, Second Floor, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne

Chair President, Ross Wilkinson

Present: 15 members **Apologies:** 5 members

The President opened the meeting at 8:01pm by welcoming all present.

Minutes of the previous General Meeting (23rd March 2012, No.988): Tabled and moved for acceptance on F Robinson's motion, seconded by B Xynos and carried.

Business arising from the Minutes: None.

Correspondence:

ANS-QLD Branch News Bulletin (4/12), ANS Report (Jul 2011-Feb 2012), Leon Morel's Sales List (4/12), Newcastle Num. Soc. Bulletin (3/12), IBNS-Melb Chapter Newsletter (4/12), Melbourne Numismatic Society Coin Show & Exhibition brochure, (19/5), M.Vort-Ronald's Australian Colonial Currency & Promissory Notes 2nd Ed., Downies Australian Sovereign Prestige Collection, Bank Statement

Business arising from Correspondence: None.

Reports from Council:

Finance & Membership (D Likar) – Account balance was approx. \$1,231 (end of March). Interest paid was one cent. Membership stands at 36 paid and 14 as outstanding. Member Bob Hammon drew an analogy of the Kent Historical Society with about £126,000 banked, producing interest of £57.

Syllabus (F Robinson) – The latest on the Syllabus has been detailed on the tabled March's minutes, with some vacancies still remaining.

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NAV Journal (F Robinson) – Members were asked to consider entering their article for the 2012 issue. For the 2011 issue, a fifth one is expected to arrive, making the production possible by Easter.

Tender Sales (R Wilkinson) – Material will be accepted for the next auctions. Tender Sales will be conducted in May, with the Donation Auction in October.

Library (P Shields) – A copy of the Noble Numismatics Sale No. 99 (featuring the late Tom May Collection) will be added. Member Rion Van Zyl Smit kindly donated his copy that on first request was given to Treasurer D Likar.

NAA Affairs (R Wilkinson) – President R Wilkinson confirmed NAA's AGM (27 July) that coincides to the Noble Numismatics Auction in Sydney. Topics to be raised are welcomed and members were encouraged to do so. The deadline for submissions is the end of June.

Newsletter (F Robinson) – Member Frank Robinson received from member D Burgess his adventures from a recent Bairnsdale visit. The cut-off date for material is the May meeting.

NAV Journal (F Robinson) - Articles for the 2012 issue will be welcomed. The 2011 issue will arrive on Monday.

Website (F Robinson) – Further adjustments and updates will be completed soon.

New Acquisitions

- **Issue for Merchant Navy:** Member K Marshall showed his new 20 Cents RAM issue commemorating the Merchant Navy. The accompanying card has a photo with members of the Australian Navy, who during strikes handled the loading of ships.
- **Endeavour:** Member J Henderson announced that the replica of the ship will be at the Royal Marina waterfront city (Docklands) and will be open for inspection from 10 to 5 until the 29th.
- **Rising Sun:** Member Pat Shields showed some stamps and medallion associated with the ANZAC Rising Sun.

- **French Medal:** Member Darren Burgess showed a French medal (d.1932) of Zéphyrin Camélinat who, as part of the Paris Commune in 1871, authorised the striking of a silver 5 Francs (Hercules) with a rare trident-mintmark.

General Business

- ❖ **Happy Birthday:** Member Bob Hammon announced Betty Turvey's birthday and with all present, warmly congratulated Betty for her 97th in the customary manner.
- ❖ **ANDA Fair (7-8 July 2012):** Member Bill Xynos informed the members of the ANDA Fair and invited members to firm their commitment in the next couple of months, in terms of volunteering and exhibiting at the Show. Application forms for exhibiting displays were tabled.
- ❖ **New book:** Vice President Frank Robinson informed members of the 2nd edition of Mick Vort-Ronald's book "Australian Colonial Currency & Promissory Notes".
- ❖ **MNS Coin & Exhibition Show:** Member Bill Xynos informed the members of the forthcoming Melbourne Numismatic Society's Coin & Exhibition Show on the 19th of May at St Peter's Anglican Church, Whitehorse Road, Box Hill (adjacent to the Box Hill Town Hall).

Syllabus: 'Military Development of Short Snorters' by Ross Wilkinson

In keeping with the Military theme for April meetings and ANZAC Day, Ross spoke about the custom of "short snorters" that occurred during World War II. Ross gave a brief description of the origin of the custom, believed to have been started by Alaskan aviators in 1925, and how it was used by them. A group of people would collectively autograph banknotes and then be expected to carry it with them at all times. The failure by any member of the group to produce their signed note on demand would result in them having to buy a drink for the others as the penalty.

With the commencement of World War II, the numbers of troops who went overseas greatly increased their exposure to foreign banknotes, many of small denomination or almost worthless pieces

such as Japanese Invasion Money. These were ideal for use as short snorters or, as became common, the means to record events, people or travel itineraries. As more notes and signatures were gathered by individuals, it was common for them to be stuck together end-on-end with adhesive tape so that they wouldn't be lost. This meant either rolling up the collection or folding it.

Ross showed illustrations of famous short snorters such as Eleanor Roosevelt's collection of banknotes and signatures gathered during her husband's travels meeting other world and military leaders. These illustrations also included his some from his own collection that was also on display for members to look at.

Ross questioned whether or not coins that were etched or stamped during the Boer War and First World War could also be similarly considered as being produced for similar purposes. This caused some interesting discussion amongst members as to what the coins were used for and their origin.

In producing this presentation Ross acknowledged using a website called the Short Snorter Project (<http://www.shortsnorter.org/>) and recommended members visit this site and also four articles on short snorters written by Dr Kerry Rogers for Australasian Coin and Banknote in editions October 2007, November 2007, April 2008 and September 2008.

On the subject of 'Short Snorters' as memorabilia from World Wars, member Ken Marshall mentioned that following the defeat of Germany in 1918 in East African rupees with King Kaiser's portrait were recovered and made of 'spoon rupees'. He also added that he has one snorter example coming from WWII when our young pilots repatriated Changi POW men in 1944. Member John Chapman has examples of Australian Pennies (similar to Ross's) where infantry men stamp-marked them, and member David Likar added that he has 3 'dog' tags.

Invited for the traditional Vote of Thanks, Frank Robinson responded on behalf of members and observed from Ross's presentation that it was obvious why it was very rare to find a short snorter in uncirculated condition. He invited members to express their appreciation of the presentation in the usual fashion. The President thanked all members and closed the meeting at 9:20pm. Refreshments kindly arranged by the Celtic Club management.

New Coins for Solomon Islands

The new coins will be officially unveiled by Prime Minister Gordon Darcy Lilo at a coin launch ceremony to be broadcast live by the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation Thursday afternoon.

Central Bank Governor Denton Rarawa says the new coins will be made available the day after the official ceremony.

"Solomon Islanders can listen to the ceremony on radio or watch the ceremony on television on Wednesday and go out on Thursday to get their new coins," said Governor Rarawa.

Mr. Rarawa says the Central Bank undertook a national public consultation process last year and has worked closely with the Royal Australian Mint to produce the new coins.

Over the last few weeks, the Central bank has been distributing the new 10 cent, 20 cent, 50 cent, 1 dollar and 2 dollar coins to banks all around the country.

Governor Rarawa says people can swap their old coins for new ones as of July 5th.

The old coins will expire after December 31, 2012.

Solomon Times – 3rd July 2012

How much is a Rupee worth?

Up to 2500 rupees if you believe the rumours sweeping Pakistan that the humble coin had inadvertently been made with gold instead of the usual tiny percentage of copper.

Shopkeepers across the country have reported being approached by dealers offering vast sums for a coin – with a face or around one cent – that inflation has made so worthless as to be frequently tossed aside.

Such is the excitement that the central bank has been forced to issue a denial to calm the hysteria and prevent speculators losing their savings.

Arshad, an ice cream seller in Islamabad, said children had been asking him for his loose change.

"I didn't understand what was happening at first," he said. "Then after a while I had parents coming out and asking to buy the coins and I read what was happening in the papers.

"No one has offered me as much as 1000 rupees but we have all heard it is happening."

One newspaper claimed a beggar had sold 150 of the coins and bought a motorbike with the proceeds.

Other rumours suggested the coins contained uranium and were being smuggled across the border for Iran's secret atomic weapons programme.

A spokesman for the State Bank of Pakistan described the rumours as a "racket".

Syed Wasimuddin said the coins were made from aluminium and copper rather than gold, and advised members of the public not buy or sell them for any price other than their face value. – From an article originally in The Telegraph.

Meeting Minutes – 18th May 2012

Meeting No. 989

Location Celtic Club, Second Floor, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne

Chair President, Ross Wilkinson

Present: 11 members **Apologies:** 6 members

The President opened the meeting at 8:05pm by welcoming all present and reminded all to sign the Celtic Club's visitor's book.

Minutes of the previous General Meeting (20th April 2012, No.989): Acceptance motion by J Chapman was seconded by B Xynos and carried.

Business arising from the Minutes: B Xynos apologised to the members for not including G Davis' letter with cuttings from her copy of the British Numismatic Journal.

Correspondence:

IBNS-Melb Chapter Newsletter (5/12), Tasmanian Numismatist (5-6/12), 'Money & Medals' Numismatics in Britain Newsletter #55, ANS-QLD Branch News Bulletin (5/12), QLD Num. Soc. Inc. Magazine (4/12), Newcastle Num. Soc. Bulletin (4/12), Peninsula Stamp Club's Stamp-Coin-Phonecard Fair (11th June at Uniting Church Hall), Vic Telephone & Smartcard Collectors Club Inc's Bentleigh Fairs 2012 calendar, Bank statement, NAB Business Payments Card promotion

Business arising from Correspondence: None.

Reports from Council:

Finance & Membership (D Likar) – Account balance was about \$1,231 (end of March), exclusive of minor deposits since then. Unpaid membership is down to 10 members, who will be contacted soon.

Syllabus & Journal (F Robinson) – In Frank's absence, Ross reported on the latest version of the Syllabus and the developments on the 2012 edition of the Journal. Ross invited members to consider and participate. The 2011 edition should be available by next month.

Tender Sales (D Likar) – May's sales will be conducted tonight, as planned. Material is always required for the forthcoming sales (July & November) and donation auction (September).

Library (P Shields) – No update.

NAA Affairs (R Wilkinson) – Ross reminded members of the NAA's AGM on the 27th of July. Due to medical arrangements, Ross will be replaced at the AGM.

Newsletter & Website (F Robinson) – In Frank's absence, the forthcoming newsletter is under progress and the website has had some minor changes done. Members were invited to contribute to the content of both media and report on any improvements that can be done.

New Acquisitions

- **Noble Numismatics Auction 99/Tom May Collection:** Members commented briefly on their bidding success on some items from the late Tom May's collection – Ken Marshall on some numismatic books, David Likar on some medals, Bill Xynos on 3 ancient Greek coins, as well as other members. The President added that the Auction's Prices Realised list is now available.
- **Return of Auction Lot:** Member Rion Van Zyl Smit expressed his relief in returning a slabbed coin to a reputable auction house as it was removed from a jewellery item, detail that was originally describe.

General Business

- ❖ **Seeking Mongolian 500 Tögrög Silver Coin:** Advertised in the CAB's May 2012 issue, member John Chapman is seeking this silver coin featuring a long-eared hedgehog that was promoted by Downies briefly, as it was sold out.

- ❖ **Paul Simon Award:** Members discussed on the subject with vigour. Starting with Len Henderson, this prestigious award was started by our Association and the NAA took over this. While nominations for 2012 have been closed now, for any new ones, Len can be approached and these suggestions can be put to the NAA. According to Len, our Association has mentioned members worthy of receiving the award but other states successfully suggested others worthy of more achievements. Ken Marshall asked about proposing for a posthumous award (ie. the late Tom May) as Tom "fits the bill". Joan Henderson indicated that the award was meant to be for 'service to society', not 'for research', to which Pat Shields mentioned the past perception that 'the tea lady can have it'... In closing the subject, the President commented that this subject will be certainly revisited.

Syllabus: 'Monkey Man Coinage of Ceylon' by Len Henderson

The President invited Len to deliver his presentation, which started with a brief history of the Southern Indian region. Len concentrated into the Chola (Cola) dynasty [South Indian Tamil rulers] originating from the rich Cauvery valley.

Vijayalaya (reigned c. 850–870) began the occupation of the territory of the Pallavas, which was extended under Aditya I (reigned c. 870–907).

Parantaka I (reigned 907–c. 953), known as the Destroyer of Madurai (the capital city of the Pandayas), defeated Sinhalese invaders and united the lands of the Cholas and the Pandayas between 926 and 942.

Rajarajal I (reigned 985–1014), an able administrator, protected Vengi (the Godavari districts) and occupied the Gangavadi territory (Karnataka state), annihilating the western Gangas. By 996 he had conquered Kerala (the Cera country) and acquired northern Ceylon (Sri Lanka). With the booty thus acquired he built the great Brhadysvara temple at Tanjore. By 1014 Rajaraja had acquired the Laccadive and Maldiva Islands.

His son Rajendracoda Deva I (reigned 1014–44) outdid his father's achievements. He placed a son on the throne at Madurai, completed the conquest of Ceylon, overran the Deccan (c. 1021), and sent an expedition to the north (1023) that penetrated to the Ganges River and brought Ganges water to the new capital, Gangaikondacolapuram. He conquered portions of the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago.

Rajadhiraja (reigned 1044–54) fought the Pandyas and Ceras and defeated the Western Calukya ruler Somesvara I in 1046, but he was killed at the Battle of Koppam against the Calukyas in 1054. The Chola ruler Vyrarajendra (reigned 1063–69) attempted to render the Calukya Empire in the Deccan harmless, but his death enabled Vikramaditya Calukya to dabble in Chola family quarrels.

Kulottunga I (reigned 1070–1122), who succeeded to both the Chola and Eastern Calukya crowns by right of inheritance, wisely abandoned the Deccan and concentrated on uniting the eastern coast. Intrigues concerning the right to the Pandya throne embroiled Colas, Pandyas, and Ceylon (which by then had recovered its independence) from c. 1166.

From 1216 the Hoysaga kings obtained lands in the Chola country, former Chola feudatories threw off their allegiance, northern powers intervened, and the upheaval facilitated the Pandya conquest of the Chola country in 1257. The Chola dynasty ended in 1279.

The Cholas expanded their reach as far as to Malaysia. In fact, based on rumours of a rich and vast region, China was at the sights of this expanding tribe, but was never attempted.

A number of Chola tribes resorted to violence as they attempted to claim regions in their path. Cities were sacked; temples were invaded and stripped of valuables. Despite assassinations and threats to rulers, domestic needs were attended to, such as building of infrastructures and temples on a scale intended to surpass past achievements, and by doing that, leaving their mark in history and legend.

Still, the brutality and ruthlessness employed by most rulers was sadly a key characteristic of expansion. From the many instruments of such acts, the sword, the dagger, the bow and the club were the weapons of choice.

Captured gold and silver was converted to coins at set standards. For weights, one penny was equal to 22 or 24 grains of wheat. A gold coin was worth about 63 grains of rice. The coinages of southern India are quite interesting. In the late centuries BC and early AD, the Andhras (kingdom in central southern India) issued coins mainly of lead but also of copper and silver with types based on Greek or local northern Indian designs.

The later medieval dynasties struck coins mainly in gold, and promoted different styles: for example, the Cheras of Malabar had an elephant, the Chalukyas of the Deccan a boar, the Pandyas a fish, and the cup-shaped pieces of the Kadambas a lotus. For the focus of our presentation tonight, the Chola dynasty introduced under northern influence the type of a king standing, on the obverse, and, on the reverse, the king seated.

These coins spread throughout southern India and were taken to Ceylon by the Chola conquest and adopted locally. The great Hindu kingdom of Vijayanagar (Mysore) left a large series of small gold and copper coins with various types of deities.

The Chola coins were also inscribed with titles of the name of the king, with a figure of goddess of light and flower. Rulers were personified like monkeys with many legs and cowrie shells were used for trade in the region. Information about this strange tribe reached the western world through Robert Knox, a prisoner of Sri Lanka for 20 years, but with the freedom to move around. After his escape with 19 other prisoners, European expeditions opened this mysterious region of Indian continent.

Following added information from J Henderson, R Wilkinson, K Marshall and others, President R Wilkinson thanked Len for this interesting presentation. In his Vote of Thanks, Ross appreciated this numismatic journey on a difficult subject, so eloquently

presented. Members joined Ross in congratulating Len in the customary manner. The President thanked all members and closed the meeting at 9:03pm. This was followed by the Tender Sales session, conducted by our Auctioneer, Pat Shields, assisted by David Likar. Refreshments kindly arranged by the Celtic Club management.

Massive Celtic Coin find in Bailiwick of Jersey

One of Europe's largest hoards of Iron Age coins has been unearthed on the channel isle of Jersey and could be worth up to £10m (\$15.3 m), according to an expert.

The Roman and Celtic coins, which date from the 1st Century BC, were found by two metal detector enthusiasts.

Dr Philip de Jersey, a former Celtic coin expert at Oxford University, said the haul was "extremely exciting and very significant".

He said each individual coin was worth between £100 and £200.

The exact number of coins found has not been established, but archaeologists said the hoard weighed about three quarters of a tonne and could contain about 50,000 coins.

The exact location of the hoard has not been revealed by the authorities but Environment Minister, Deputy Rob Duhamel, said he would do everything he could to protect the site.

"Sites like these do need protection because there is speculation there might even be more," he said.

"It is a very exciting piece of news and perhaps harks back to our cultural heritage in terms of finance. It was found under a hedge so perhaps this is an early example of hedge fund trading."

It was found by Reg Mead and Richard Miles in a field in the east of Jersey.

They had been searching for more than 30 years after hearing rumours a farmer had discovered silver coins while working on his land.

Mr Mead and Mr Miles worked with experts from Jersey Heritage to slowly unearth the treasure.

A large mound of clay containing the coins has now been taken to a safe location to be studied.

It is the first hoard of coins found in the island for more than 60 years.

Several hoards of Celtic coins have been found in Jersey before but the largest was in 1935 at La Marquanderie when more than 11,000 were discovered.

Dr de Jersey said it would take months for archaeologists to find out the full value of the haul.

He said: "It is extremely exciting and very significant. It will add a huge amount of new information, not just about the coins themselves but the people who were using them.

"Most archaeologists with an interest in coins spend their lives in libraries writing about coins and looking at pictures of coins.

"To actually go out and excavate one in a field, most of us never get that opportunity. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity." – BBC News 26th June 2012

Shropshire coin hoard declared treasure trove

A hoard of English Civil War coins found in south Shropshire in the UK has been declared treasure.

The 138 coins, dating back more than 350 years, were found in Bitterley, near Ludlow, by metal detectorist Howard Murphy last year.

Initial research suggests the hoard, made up of 137 silver coins and a single gold coin which would have been worth more than £9 at the time, were buried shortly after 1644, probably during the Civil War. – BBC News 2nd July 2012

Bairnsdale Stamp & Coin Fair 2012

On April 1st, the morning after daylight saving ended in Victoria, I made the most of the extra hour of sleep and headed towards Bairnsdale to attend the Bairnsdale Stamp and Coin Club's fair, hoping that this wasn't an April fool's joke.

In the end there was indeed a show at the St. Mary's Parish Centre Hall and it was certainly well attended, if the numbers I saw when I arrived at noon were any indication. In fact there was a queue at the only coin dealer (Morwell based Classy Collectibles) and the stamp dealers were also occupied.

There were also a number of displays by members of the club and one in particular caught my eye, mainly because of the model of a rocket on a launch pad labelled "Stamps in Space". Around the base were a number of stamps representing space including the space shuttle, satellites and the moon.

This was the work of John, aged 10, who is also a big fan of dinosaurs, which was the theme of his display last year. Next to his impressive display was a very colourful one from his sister about butterflies. This was topped off by Dad's collection of tokens issued by E.W. Coles making it a truly family affair.

Other displays included a variety of Australian One Dollar coins and plate money that would certainly wear a hole in your pocket. There was also a raffle, used to raise money to contribute to the hire of the hall.

Speaking to one of the organisers I asked about the club and it turns out they have about 40 members about which 15-20 turn up to the monthly meetings on a regular basis. There is a clear sense of community about the club and it's great to see coin and stamp collecting is alive and well in East Gippsland.

Reporter - Darren Burgess

Bairnsdale Stamp & Coin Fair



A display of E W Coles Tokens



John with his Stamps in Space



Very colourful butterfly display