

Victorian Numismatic Journal



Vol 1 No 2

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*Anna Meszaros presenting Michael Meszaros with
AMSA's 2014 American Medal of the Year*



Emily and John Junge with their displays at the Bairnsdale Stamp & Coin Fair

Cover illustration: "Sic Transit Gloria Mundi" by Michael Meszaros
(see article commencing page 6)

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Numismatic Association of Victoria

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IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial	4
Society Notices	4
The Jessie Webb Award	4
AMSA Award to Michael Meszaros	6
Society Reports	7
Advertorial – Universal Coin Company	14
Shipwreck, Mutiny and Massacre on the VOC Ship <i>Batavia</i>	15
A Storage Box for 2x2s	31
The Centenary Florin – Victoria's Own Coin	34
Annual Reports	42
Forthcoming Events	48
Forward Syllabus 2016	49
Office Bearers	50
Advertorial – Classy Collectables	50

Editorial

Welcome to the second issue of the *Victorian numismatic Journal*. This issue is larger than the first issue due to including annual reports from both the NAV and the Melbourne NS as well as a centre sheet of advertisements. Please support our advertisers as they are important for our hobby and also they make this journal economically viable. It is hoped to have additional advertisers in future issues.

I would like to thank Max Stern & Co for supplying the postage stamps for the mail-out of the journals.

Thanks also to Monica and Vince for their articles which are printed in this issue. Once again I would encourage members to write articles for the VNJ and thus share your knowledge with other members. Ladies, please take note of the Jessie Webb Award (see below); further details on this award will be announced later.

SOCIETY NOTICES

NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

THE JESSIE WEBB AWARD

The NAV is currently in the process of finalising a new award to encourage participation of women in organised numismatics throughout Australia. Women of any age who contribute an article to the Victorian Numismatic

Journal, and are members of an Australian numismatic society at the time of publication, will be eligible for this award.

But why another award, after all the NAA has the Bronze Ray Jewell award for the most outstanding article published in the *Journal of The Numismatic Association of Australia* over two consecutive volumes and the NAV has the Stan Church Memorial Award for original numismatic research by its members?

Well first of all we are encouraging contributions to the newly created Victorian Numismatic Journal, as we need quality content for it to succeed. Secondly we think it's important that we have a diversity of voices in our hobby, as we believe we'll be the richer for it.

The other question which might come to mind is, who was Jessie Webb? Jessie Stobo Watson Webb was born at Ellerslie Station near Tumut in New South Wales on 31 July 1880. Her mother died at her birth and her father was killed in a riding accident when she was 9 years old. This led to her being sent to her mother's family in Melbourne.

It was in Melbourne that she thrived, especially academically, first at Balaclava College and then at the University of Melbourne, where she graduated with first-class honours in history and political economy. In 1908 she joined the history department at the university, becoming a senior lecturer and acting professor in history.

In 1924 she approached the Finance Committee of the University for up to £25 to purchase "representative Greek and Roman coins" for use in her lectures "with which students' interest may be roused or their memory stimulated". By the late 1920s hundreds of pounds had been spent on a fine mahogany coin cabinet and a range of coins acquired through Charles Seltman, a London based numismatist and historian.

Most of these coins today form the basis of the collection at the Ian Potter Centre, continuing to give students an opportunity to have their senses stimulated. Jessie passed away in 1944 but was honoured with a medallion by Andor Meszaros in 1943 and remembered up until recently at the University, as the history library was named the Jessie Webb Library until its recent closure.

The final shape of the award has yet to be signed off on, but the idea is to present the winner with a medallion and award the member's society with a financial contribution. To do this we've been very generously given sponsorship by Melbourne based coin dealer CoinWorks. When we approached Belinda and told her of our idea she said "how could I refuse".

AMSA AWARD TO MICHAEL MESZAROS

The American Medallic Sculpture Association (AMSA) was founded in 1982 to encourage the creation and study of medallic sculpture in North America.¹

The American Medal of the Year award was established in 2014 to foster and recognize the growth of America's own thriving medallic art scene. It is an opportunity for American medallic artists to proudly showcase their work and raise appreciation for American medallic art.

The award is open to all AMSA members, USA citizens and residents of five years or more. The nominations can come from mints, medallists, judges, AMSA members, or anyone else by 1 March for medals made in the preceding calendar year.

There were 29 entries for the inaugural award – only two of these were from outside the USA. The winner of the inaugural award was Michael Meszaros of Melbourne for his medal “Sic Transit Gloria Mundi” (which translates as “Thus passes the glory of the world”).

Michael's medal shows a classical temple on one side and its collapsed ruins on the other side.



Michael's medal “Sic Transit Gloria Mundi” (99 mm)

AMSA requested the Numismatic Association of Australia (NAA) to arrange the presentation of the award medal to Michael. The NAA then requested the NAV to do the presentation. As Michael's niece, Anna Meszaros, was already scheduled to be the guest speaker at the NAV's March meeting, it was arranged for the presentation to occur then.

¹ Information about AMSA and their American Medal of the Year award is taken from their website <http://www.amsamedals.org/>



AMSA American Medal of the Year awarded to Michael Meszaros (79 mm)

The AMSA medal was designed by Heidi Wastweet, a prominent American medallist.

SOCIETY REPORTS

GEELONG NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

MEETING No 512 – 18 MARCH 2016

Sean is continuing to develop the website. Tony has been approached by someone claiming to be vice-president of Singapore Numismatic Association. Trish will give a talk on Ballarat token issuers at the next meeting. Sean will give a talk in May and in June Dave will give a talk on Australian sovereigns.

Show and Tell

Daryl – Singaporean notes. Pat – folder of miniature WW1 medals, 1916 shilling, banknote, German wound badge, 2 WW1 death plaques. Rita – Australian UNC set. Tony – Netherlands commemorative medal.

Theme for the evening – 50 years of decimal

Sean – gold-plated 1966 50 cent. Pat – 2016 commemorative set. Daryl – list of original suggestions for the new currency. Dave – old and new coins decimal/pre-decimal in BP pack. Tony – book showing change-over to decimal. Gerland – 1966 set of decimal coins.

General Business

Sean to contact Amber re selling 50th anniversary medals on eBay.

MEETING No 513 – 22 APRIL 2016

Trish gave a talk on Melbourne and Ballarat tokens. Sean will give a talk in May and in August Dave will give a talk on Australian sovereigns. The theme for the June meeting is Fantasy coins.

Show and Tell

Jarrah – a Cobar “quid”. Pat – a change purse and an old scrapbook from WW2. Natalie – a Geelong racing club medal. Sean – a coat of arms on \$10. Julie – 2016 currency set “pirate booty” + 50c 2012 PNG.

General Business

Tony distributed 1st editions of VNJ. Trish will send her notes for her talk to Frank for inclusion in VNJ.

MELBOURNE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 10 MARCH 2016

Out of our 18 present members, we had a healthy attendance of 15 plus 1 visitor.

Reports by the President, Secretary and Treasurer were read and accepted.

After many years of service in the Council, Geoffrey Weeks was thanked, as he wished to retire from his position as Vice President. Jan de Knecht was duly elected ‘from the floor’.

Therefore as only one nomination had been received for each position, the following were deemed ‘elected’.

- President Michael Wade
- Vice President/Treasurer: John Baker
- Vice President: Paul Suter
- Secretary: Monica de Knecht
- Council members: Bob Safstrom, Tim Wheeler and Jan de Knecht

New Acquisitions

As Jan had decided to go in as Carnival Prince for another year, Monica showed his new medal for 2016 plus other medals of the Limburger Kangaroos. Also a commemorative medal image from Geo Coin with the Dutch East India Company insignia (VOC). Paul showed a \$2 (2015) with the reverse centre collar miss strike and a 2014 \$2 coin with the obverse legend (Elizabeth II) miss strike. Fulvio showed a 50c coin (50 years of decimal currency). John had found a curious badge with Australia and a wedge tailed eagle, possibly representing the Air Force.

Michael gave a very interesting talk on Roman coinage, in particular that of the Republic before Imperial Rome. He showed the coins of Sentius (denarius 101 BC) and Filius (denarius 90 BC).

GENERAL MEETING, 14 APRIL 2016

15 members attended and also one visitor Jules, who is interested in becoming a new member.

For the first time we lodged our Annual Return on-line with no paperwork involved, except for the invoice. We are applying for a grant of \$750 from the Box Hill Council for our Coin Show to be held on 22nd October.

General Business

We discussed the web site issue for MNS and it was thought that as the NAV site incorporates MNS, to save extra expense we would just be on the FACEBOOK. It was thought that we should have a Council meeting to discuss the Coin Show in October.

The ANDA show would be held on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th August at the Tennis Centre, Olympic Park Melbourne. No entrance fee – only a gold coin donation. Volunteers needed.

World Wars One and Two Talks

Michael showed three medals from World War I, the recipient being Herbert Kitchener Sutton; also his service history in the Navy on three ships. John showed a Memorial Board of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, showing all the officers of the bank, who had died in World War II. Stan showed many Anzac badges and Joan read out an emotional article on the Anzacs. Monica showed a badge from the RSL showing a digger carrying his wounded comrade (Fromelles 1916). It was amazingly similar to a photograph she had of her Great Uncle George Thom, being carried by a comrade in World War I. He served in the South Africa Korps in France and had been wounded by shrapnel, saving his sergeant, dying in a field hospital in Boulogne two weeks afterwards in October 1917. Darren showed a 2015 Remembrance coin, with the story behind the coin, being the poem “In Flanders Field”, written by Canadian medic, Lt Colonel John McCrae, after the 2nd Battle of Ypres, in which a comrade died.

GENERAL MEETING, 12 MAY 2016

13 Members and 1 visitor, Jules, enjoyed a stimulating meeting, with our syllabus subject being Russian and Eastern coinage.

Jules was accepted as our newest member, on the motion of Jan; seconded by John and carried unanimously.

Michael brought in a 2 rial and 5 rial from Iran and a coin from Iraq. He also brought in an article about Peter the Great's "King Rides Horse" silver wire kopek coin. Dominic brought in a collection of coinage from the Middle East, including Israel, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. John brought in a very scarce coin from Syria, dated 1926, also another from Turkey (1920) and images of coins from Turkey, detailing the history behind them. Rob brought in 10 Iraqi notes of 250 dinars each – uncirculated, printed at the De La Rue United Kingdom mint and some Egyptian notes. Jan brought in a selection of Russian coins.

There were also some very interesting new acquisitions, including Jan's coin from 1915 when Serbia was a Kingdom, with Peter I as its last King. Also among the coins was a medalet with Queen Juliana and Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands depicted. Some 16th century English coins were brought in by Michael – an Edward VI penny, a Henry VIII groat and a penny on which were depicted Queen Mary Tudor and Prince Philip of Spain.

Next month our syllabus talk will be done by Monica, with VOC (Dutch East India Company) trade, piracy and coinage.

MORWELL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY 7TH MARCH 2016

The meeting had in attendance twelve members with two apologies.

In general business, Tilo tabled for discussion the possibility of a joint excursion with Melbourne clubs to the Melbourne Museum and/or the Islamic Coin Exhibition at Thornbury, Tilo will follow up. Additional items tabled, were that there are two different RAM 2016 dated mint sets have been issued, one set having a round 50c cent coin.

The new \$5 bank note issue was discussed, with the possibility of a new signature combination mentioned by Gary. Gary will also investigate the possibility of a club visit to Note Printing Australia. Pat noted the passing of Max Stern, the Melbourne Stamp & Coin Dealer, in addition he had on display his purchases from the Mint following a recent holiday.

Speaker or Quiz Master

This month Peter Hill had the role as the speaker or quiz master and chose to provide members with a quiz. The quiz was a popular one with joint winners in Gary and Jim, well done boys.

Bring-a-long

The topic for this month was a coin or note from 'A New Country' (less than 20 years old), this proved to be a difficult topic with only a few members being able to have items to show.

GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY 4TH APRIL 2016

The meeting had in attendance thirteen members with one apologies and one visitor. The first issue of the Victorian Numismatic Journal was circulated to members, feedback on the journal format and layout being requested. Members were also encouraged to put pen to paper with any small articles for inclusion in future editions.

In general business, Tilo tabled the invitation to attend the NAV's 70th Anniversary Dinner on 20 May. Vince brought to everyone's attention the change of status of 'non-circulating' legal tender coins in England, following a recent decision by the Royal Mint on the redeeming the coins for face value. In effect, the coins (or should we now say **medals**) have no redeemable value ie they are collector pieces only.

Members are unsure of the laws in Australia, though it was thought that NCLT coins were redeemable for face value at the Reserve Bank.

The forthcoming issue of ANZAC set of coins by the Herald Sun newspaper were noted, for the first time there are four different 25 cent coins being issued (or should I say medals??).

Reports of the new 50 cent 2016 issue being found in Bairnsdale, no other denominations have been seen or located by members. The Mint has push-in holders available for free, for people to collect all the 2016 issues, good luck.

Recent press releases and newspaper stories confirmed the issues of the next generation \$5 note for later this year, confirming previous discussions at club meetings.

Speaker or Quiz Master

This month Jim had the role as the speaker or quiz master and chose to provide members with a quiz. Big Jim had everyone's knowledge tested on pre-decimal coins, a tough quiz won by Peter.

Bring-a-long

The topic for this month was a coin, medal or note from '1966', this month's topic proved a little easier for everyone with many fine items provided for viewing.

GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY 2ND MAY 2016

The meeting had in attendance eight members with two apologies and one visitor. With the President away Peter chaired the meeting.

In general business it was advised that the timing of the joint excursion with Melbourne clubs was still in discussion. Some club members who attended the Bairnsdale Stamp & Coin Fair featured in the local paper.

An interesting discussion around the table on the topic of fakes and how to identify them. Love tokens were also discussed following the RAM new issue – a fascinating aspect of the human side of numismatics. Members also thought that we should look to include a recent acquisitions slot into the meeting.

Speaker or Quiz Master

This month Peter had the role as the speaker or quiz master and chose to provide members with a quiz. The quiz was an entertaining one with Gary coming out the winner.

Bring-a-long

The topic for this month was a coin or note featuring the 'Queen', with most members being able to contribute an item for show.

NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

GENERAL MEETING #1032 – FRIDAY 18TH MARCH 2016

13 members were present with 6 apologies recorded.

In 'New Acquisitions', the 'British Empire Exhibition' medal by Nobel Industries was shown. Other items were some communion tokens, Charles II Scottish 2 pence, Russian Imperial banknotes of 3, 5 and 10 Roubles circa 1905, some Anzac related medals, a plaque-medal from the Photo Club of Paris circa 1900, a medalette by the Northern Ireland Unionists, and a Syracuse coin.

In Syllabus, guest speaker Anna Meszaros presented "Medal Making in Australia". Her childhood was remarked by the gentle care and deep impressions of her grandparents during her parents' busy work. Her grandfather was Andor Meszaros, a renowned sculptor whose legacy and work has influenced her in a unique way. Michael Meszaros, brother of Anna's father, undertook the task of teaching her in sculpture techniques. Gradually, Michael's teachings on plaster casting, patinating and colouring medals and other techniques enabled her to acquire the essential skills for delving into medal making.

Anna decided to follow her university studies and achieved a BA honours in Philosophy at La Trobe University. The application of her critical thoughts was proven as important in discovering the essence and expectations from medallion projects or commissions. Soon, she switched to her medal making apprenticeship as her artistic interpretations and dexterity prevailed. Successful achievements were the interpretation of elements from nature on medal modelling (eg the veins in the ivy leaves). Anna's medal ("In the Garden") represented her first successful creation, followed by her second medal ("The Sleeping Cat"), an experiment based on Michael's sculpture.

Another explored concept was the use of the surrounding areas where a medal can be visually enhanced: water lilies floating on water, so that when the medal sits on the coffee table, its surface becomes the water. The medal titled "Sunrise/Sunset" was a strong representation of that effect. Anna's attraction of ancient Greek coins was also evident on her interpretation from a couple of classic Greek reliefs (Alexander the Great and the Naxos coins).

Anna believed that portrait medals are very challenging, such as modelling on low relief with a maximum relief height of less than 2 mm. Her creation of 15 plasters commissioned on behalf of the Royal Australian Mint was a great achievement. Her deep admiration of Michael's work in the field of modelling and medal making was so strong that she nominated him for the Order of Australia.

On behalf of the Numismatic Association of Australia, Anna presented Michael Meszaros with the AMSA's First American Medal of the Year Award (see report on page 6). In appreciation of this unique event, the NAV President also presented Anna with the NAV's bronze Centenary of ANZAC medal.

GENERAL MEETING #1033 – FRIDAY 15TH APRIL 2016

18 members were present with 4 apologies recorded.

In 'New Acquisitions', ANZAC related medals were shown, also a pair of awards by Toogood & Sons in UK, a 'Currency Changeover' uncirculated set, some RAM 25 cent coins, the ANS Society's medals book and a number of Roman Republic ancient coins, and a Herod Antipas bronze coin (infamous for beheading John The Baptist).

In Syllabus, speakers Darren Burgess and Frank Robinson presented 'Centenary of Gallipoli Medal'. Frank opened the presentation by revealing the concept behind the NAV's most recent medal, from the time the design was conceptualised through the Council meetings where the design was modified, initially taken from a postcard of Albert Jacka, the first Australian to receive the Victoria Cross in WWI, and variations of the surrounding legend.

Darren continued on by detailing the Council's attempt to find an appropriate mint to undertake this project. The unanimous decision of utilising an Australian-based Mint was paramount, assuring of the high-quality medal finish. Adelaide Mint was chosen and preliminary discussions torpedoed the use of Jacka's portrait which was found to be extremely difficult to perfect. The Council worked on an alternative design by highlighting the VC. Before the final submission, members were asked to contribute and Dr John Chapman suggested including a background design of the map of The Dardanelles. Finally, Adelaide Mint convinced us on the use of a third die

for preparing the miniature VC medals that were enamelled in a separate process, before being affixed to the medal.

Obviously, the use of the VC medal required special permission from the Government. We were quickly directed to the Office of the Governor-General and, based on our final design, the appropriate permission was given.

Adelaide Mint worked extremely hard to finalise the project and ensure that these were delivered to Melbourne, just before the ANDA's Melbourne August 2015 Show.

The evening was completed with a Tender Sale session.

Advertorial – Universal Coin Company

Universal Coin Company was first established in 1988 operating out of the South Melbourne Market. From these humble origins the business quickly grew and in 1991 the business moved to Centre Place, one of Melbourne's most iconic and vibrant laneways, it is here the business remains today.

Over the last 25 years Universal has been at the forefront of Australian Numismatics. We have built a reputation for carrying the highest quality Australian and World rarities as well as many other collectables of interest.

Today the business is as strong as ever and begins a transition phase to diversify our services. We are pleased to announce the introduction of a public auction division, which will be running public internet auctions through from June 2014.

Our services include buying and selling the following:

- All items of numismatic interest
- Antiques
- Militaria
- Cigarette and postcards
- Gold and silver jewellery
- Gold and silver scrap metal
- Badges and medals
- Vintage and collectable toys
- All precious metal and bullion products

Please contact our friendly customer service team on +613 9654 2997 should you wish to discuss any of the above interests.

Shipwreck, Mutiny and Massacre on the VOC Ship *Batavia*

Murder, Mayhem and Chests of Silver

By Monica de Knecht¹

The Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie, (the VOC), translated means The United East India Company, but is more commonly known as the Dutch East India Company. It was born out of the bowels of the Reformation and the ultimate result of the Netherlands overthrowing their overlord, the King of Spain (Philip II). The VOC was established in 1602, when the States-General of the Netherlands granted it a monopoly to carry out trading activities throughout Asia. It was the first company in the world to issue stock and possessed quasi-governmental powers, including the ability to wage war, negotiate treaties, coin money and establish colonies.

THE *BATAVIA* – ITS CREW AND PASSENGERS

The *Batavia* was known as the pride of the VOC. It was built in Amsterdam in 1628 and was armed with 24 cast-iron cannons and a number of bronze guns. Its main cargo was silver coins, trading goods and two paintings belonging to Rubens, for sale to an Indian Mogul ruler. It also carried pre-fabricated sandstone blocks for a portico to be erected as gatehouse in the city of Batavia (modern Jakarta), Indonesia. This was to be for the new headquarters of the VOC in the East Indies.

The *Batavia* left Texel, Holland, on its maiden voyage to the East Indies on 27th October, 1628; the flagship in a convoy of seven. The very experienced Belgian trader, Francisco Pelsaert was the Commander, or upper merchant, (Dutch *opperkoopman*) in charge and Ariaen Jacobszoon was the Captain. These two had first met in Surat, India



A replica of the *Batavia* as she would have looked when she first set sail in October 1628.

¹ Melbourne Numismatic Society

and some animosity had developed between them, which was possibly a catalyst to the tragedy that eventually occurred.

Also on board was Jeronimus Corneliszoon, the under or junior merchant, (Dutch onderkoopman) a maverick, who had somehow charmed and bluffed his way through the Amsterdam directors of the VOC, known as the Gentlemen XVII (*Heeren XVII*). He was actually a bankrupt alchemist from Haarlem, who was fleeing the Netherlands, in fear of arrest, because of his heretical beliefs. He belonged to a very militant group of Anabaptists, known as the Batenbergers,



who were even more unconventional than the mainstream Anabaptists. They believed that every man and everything on earth was owned literally by God and they were God's chosen ones. Therefore, everything on earth was freely theirs to do with as they pleased and they were free to kill anyone they pleased. They also believed in polygamy and alleged that all women and all goods were held in common. Even the ordinary Anabaptists were despised and loathed by Catholic, Lutheran and Calvinist alike; let alone these non-conformists. They were ruthlessly persecuted by the usually tolerant Netherlands.

Officially there were 341 people on board. However a few last-minute desertions were noted, which was fairly common at the time. Therefore, it is recorded that 332 were actually aboard when she sailed. Slightly more than two-thirds were the officers and men sailing the vessel. The remaining number totalled about 100 soldiers (marines) and civilian passengers who were going, or returning to the Indies. Some of these passengers were women and children, either wives of Company employees or servants.

THE VOYAGE

The journey began disastrously with a violent storm, which separated most of the ships in the convoy. After the storm abated, only three of the seven ships had sight of each other. These were *Batavia*, *Assendelft* and *Buren*. They reached the Cape of Good Hope, a month ahead of schedule. While there, it became patently clear that there was not much love lost between Pelsaert and Ariaen Jacobszoon, who was an undisciplined drunken oaf. This was slyly

noted by Corneliszoon, who was a most crafty, insinuating man, who was trusted implicitly by Francisco Pelsaert, as Corneliszoon was able to flatter his way into the Upper Merchant's favour, while at the same time, gaining the confidence of the disorderly skipper.

SHIPWRECK, MUTINY AND MASSACRE

The naïve Pelsaert could see no fault in the crafty junior merchant. This was to be his undoing. From Cape Town they were to follow the route laid down, before sailing on to Java. Unfortunately, the ships lost sight of each other, shortly after leaving Cape Town and the flagship was on her own. Unknown to anyone but Jacobszoon and Corneliszoon, the ship had been deliberately steered off course; after which Corneliszoon had incited a small group of weak young men, together with the Captain, himself, to gang rape a high ranking young woman, named Lucretia van der Mylen, as she had earlier rebuffed the captain's advances. Their plan was to provoke punishment from Pelsaert, which would then lead to mutiny. This did not go to plan, as the woman was able to identify one of her attackers and the mutinous crew waited for the arrests. However, these never came as Pelsaert had fallen ill. Nonetheless, Jacobszoon had succumbed to drink, through the under Merchant's coaxing and, in bad weather, the *Batavia* was wrecked on Morning Reef, on the Houtman Abrolhos, off the coast of Western Australia on the 4th June 1629; Pelsaert, by this time, had recovered from his illness and upbraided Ariaen Jacobszoon. "Skipper, what have you done that through your reckless carelessness, you have run this noose around our necks?" (from Pelsaert's Journal). All the time, the commander saw no culpability in his junior colleague.



180 persons – among them 30 women and children – were then ferried off the ship, while some 70 odd men remained, including Jeronimus Corneliszoon. The survivors landed on Beacon Island. Pelsaert, Jacobszoon and some 40 men made camp on an uninhabited island, situated near Beacon Island, afterwards known as Traitors Island; this island being part of the Wallabi group within the Houtman Abrolhos.

They had rescued some ship's provisions, barrels of biscuit and some water. That, however, was not going to sustain them for long, since there was no fresh water on these 'coral shallows'. After discussing this, they decided that if

they couldn't find water on the islands " we should then sail the boat without delay to Batavia, with God's grace there to relate our sad, unheard of, disastrous happening." (Pelsaert's Journal)



1897 map showing Houtman Abrolhos wreck site

Thus, Commander Pelsaert, all the senior officers (except Jeronimus Corneliszoon, who was still on the wreck), some crew and passengers, 48 in all, deserted the 268 on two waterless islands, whilst they went in search of water. Quickly abandoning this fruitless search on the mainland coast, they then made their way to Batavia, to obtain help. They took, in all, 33 days to get there. This ranks as one of the greatest feats of navigation in an open boat, as all aboard survived

On arrival in Batavia, the ship's high boatswain was executed, by the Governor General of the VOC, Jan Pieterszoon Coen, on Pelsaert's indictment, for outrageous behaviour, before the loss of the ship (it was this boatswain, who had been identified by Lucretia van der Mylen). Skipper Jacobszoon was arrested, again on Pelsaert's word, for negligence.

The catalyst for the mutiny, Jeronimus Corneliszoon was left in sole charge of all. Pieterszoon Coen dispatched Pelsaert, seven days later, in a *jacht* (a Dutch light sailing vessel), *Saardam* to effect a rescue of the survivors. With extraordinary bad luck, it took 63 days to find the wreck site, almost double the time it took the ship's boat to get to Batavia.

In the days following Pelsaert's departure the *Batavia* broke up completely drowning 40 men with her. Those who survived, which, unfortunately, included Jeronimus Corneliszoon, made it by flotsam and jetsam to the coral shallows of Beacon and Traitor Islands. The departure of the Commander in their hour of need – or so they perceived it – had left all survivors bitter and distressed. It was therefore not too difficult for Corneliszoon to hand pick 40 or so men with as little scruples as he had and assert himself over them. He had his sight set to seize any relief ship that might appear and take off with it. If that failed, to spend his remaining life according to his sect's philosophy of seeking sensual pleasures.



In order to eliminate any opposition to his desires, he had to eliminate all remaining survivors and set out systematically to do just that. Firstly, he sent a party of cabin boys, men and women, about 45 in number, to Seals Island (Long Island) on the claim that there was water there (which there was not). He was not expecting them to survive. Then he instructed a group of soldiers under the command of Wiebbe Hayes to explore the 'high islands' that could be seen on the horizon. Before they left, he confiscated their arms. He did not expect them to return. After all, that was the direction to which Pelsaert had gone and he had not returned.

Next he drowned a good many by sending them out in boats on useless errands, where his accomplices would push them overboard. Having thus eliminated much potential opposition, Corneliszoon set about organising the rest to be murdered, including the women and children, starting with the ill and infirm. A few of the women were kept alive, for obvious reasons. This included, not surprisingly, Lucretia van der Mylen, whom he took for himself.



Engraving of the massacre that followed the Batavia shipwreck from 1647 Jan Jansz edition of the *Unlucky Voyage of the Batavia*. Copyright WA Museum

Noticing that the group he sent off to Seal Island lived longer than expected (they could see them wandering on the beach) he dispatched his henchmen to get rid of them, which they duly did. The Dutch Reform Minister,

Gijsbert Bastiaenzoon, was witness to all these horrible deeds without the courage or power to intervene. He himself lost his wife and all his children in the massacre, save his eldest daughter who was coveted by Conrad van Huyssen, one of Corneliszoon's conspirators. Bastiaenzoon was one of the few to survive and he described his ordeal in a letter that survived.

RETRIBUTION (AUSTRALIA'S FIRST CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS AND EXECUTIONS)

Again the evil merchant was frustrated in his malevolent designs, because Wiebbe Hayes and his marines did find water. They returned to find themselves confronted by the butchery and murder of 125 men, women and children. Corneliszoon was not worried. After all, they had no arms. Nevertheless the heroic Hayes and his courageous men did overpower the brigands, including Corneliszoon. The merchant was kept alive, but Hayes duly executed five of the felons.

When Pelsaert eventually returned to the horrific site, he decided to conduct a trial on the islands, because the *Saardam* on the return voyage to Batavia would have been overcrowded with survivors and prisoners. After a brief trial, the worst offenders were taken to Seal Island and executed. The ringleader and several of the major mutineers had both hands chopped off before being hanged.

Then, sick at heart at the massacre and the aftermath, Pelsaert let two minor offenders be marooned on mainland Australia on 16th November, 1629. Their names were Wouter Loos and an 18 year old cabin boy named Jan Pelgrom de Bye. Reports of unusually light skinned Aboriginals in the area by later British settlers is, by some, cited as evidence that the two may have been adopted into a local Aboriginal clan. Some among the Amangu people of the mainland have a blood group specific to Leiden in Holland. The remaining mutineers were taken to Batavia for trial. Five were hanged, while several others were flogged. Corneliszoon's second in command, Jacob Pieterszoon was broken on the wheel – this being the most severe punishment available at this time.

Captain Jacobszoon, despite being tortured, did not confess to his part in planning a mutiny and escaped execution due to lack of evidence. But it is believed that he died in prison. The luckless Pelsaert, despite being one of the



Monument to Wiebbe Hayes
at Geraldton, W. A.

Dutch East India Company's most successful merchants was judged lacking in authority and, by trusting Corneliszoon, partly responsible for what had happened. All his financial assets were seized and he died a broken and impoverished man within a year. The common soldier-marine, Wiebbe Hayes was hailed as the hero and the VOC promoted him to sergeant and later to lieutenant. Of the original 332 people on board the *Batavia*, 210 died before the remnant reached the port of Batavia.

CARGO RESCUED BY THE VOC

No trading goods survived. However of the 12 chests of silver (value 259 788 guilders), only two chests could not be recovered. You would think that would have satisfied the Dutch East India Company, but it did not, as two chests of silver, trading goods and building materials, plus the loss of their pride and joy, the *Batavia*, did not give them any pleasure. When Francisco Pelsaert's widow came begging for help, as the widows of the Company's men were usually given a pension, she was turned away by the VOC, without a "doit" – the value of a doit being a very small copper coin of the time – she died as destitute as her luckless husband. (Doit is taken from *duit* from the Middle Dutch language meaning a trifle or petty sum).



VOC doit, 1735, 23 mm

1963 DISCOVERY OF THE *BATAVIA*

The wreck of the *Batavia* was discovered more than 300 years later in 1963 by a crayfisherman in the Abrolhos Islands. An expedition was formed, headed by a young Australian skin diver and journalist by the name of Hugh Edwards. He dived on the wreck explored the islands and made further discoveries – skeletons, weapons, gold and trading goods (which enabled him to corroborate, at last the *Batavia* story in his book *Islands of Angry Ghosts*). In total 9129 coins were recovered from which 71% are of Dutch origin and only 1442 (16% of them) are officially in private hands. These were from the two chests of silver not able to be recovered by the Dutch East India Company.



Dave Johnson, the crayfisherman who found the wreck of the *Batavia*



Skeleton unearthed at Beacon Island as late as 2015. Archaeologists are unearthing more and more all the time from the gory mutiny, massacre and shipwreck of the *Batavia*

SELECTION OF COINS

The coins recovered from the *Batavia* were mainly silver Rijksdaalders of the United Netherlands and the Spanish Netherlands and a wide variety of Thalers from the German States, cities and bishoprics of the Holy Roman Empire under the authority of the Emperor elected from the Arch Dukes of Austria. Over 90% are silver crown sized pieces with a few of the half thaler and half daalder denominations. Sadly, more than 80% of the coins recovered from the wreck of the *Batavia* are badly corroded and, in many cases, unidentifiable. Here are a few examples of the better ones, with the obverse and reverse showing.



*Frankfurt silver thaler of the German States (1624), 42 mm
This remains a solid representative of Batavia's very strong wealth.
It is worth \$2250 in its present Condition.*



Hamburg Silver Thaler of the German States (1620), 42 mm

*This coin is in very good condition for one that was
at the bottom of the sea for over 300 years.*

There is very strong detail in it and it is valued presently at \$3950.



Netherlands silver Rijksdaalder from West Friesland, dated 1622, 42 mm

The Knight and the Shield remain sharp and distinct.



Half Rijksdaalder. dated 1620, ca. 34 mm

This particular one was minted in Overijssel province.



Silver Rijksdaalder from the Batavia, 42 mm

This rijksdaalder has a porous planchet with a crack redolent of the 17th century production process. However the flan is full and round and all of the major design elements on the obverse remain clear.

It is available for purchase from the Perth Mint.

In September 1628 Dutch Admiral Piet Hein captured the whole “New Spain Flotilla” near Havana and took home to Holland a vast quantity of silver. No wonder a VOC company administrator rejoiced, saying “The company begins to breathe again – thanks to that courageous sea beggar, Piet Hein (Marx, 1993: 152).

That’s why the next Dutch shipwreck in Western Australia, *Vergulde Draeck* (or *Gilded Dragon*) did carry, almost entirely, only Spanish silver. (The *Vergulde Draeck* sailed from Texel bound for Batavia (Jakarta), under Pieter Albertsz, in 1656, carrying trade goods and eight chests of silver to the value of 786 000 guilders).

CONCLUSION

The skeletons are proof of the butchery by Jeronimus Corneliszoon and his henchmen; the ship is evidence of the skills which made Dutch shipbuilders the undisputed leaders in the 16th century and early 17th century and the coins and trading goods are confirmation of the wealth and power of the Dutch East India Company in its heyday.

(continued on page 29)

Did You Know?

Did you know that a “turner”, or “bodle” was the name given to a Scottish two pence copper coin issued during the reigns of James VI, Charles I, Charles II, and William and Mary. They were struck from 1597 to 1694. The copper turners struck in 1642, 1644, 1648, and 1650 were the only coins struck in Scotland during the Civil War years.



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The VOC Ship *Batavia*

(continued from page 24)



A model of the Batavia in the WA Museum Shipwreck Galleries



*Batavia portico façade and cannon in the WA Museum Shipwreck Galleries
this façade has been reconstructed from sandstone blocks recovered from the
wreck of the Batavia and was intended to have been erected as the
Waterpoort (or sea-gate) of the castle in Batavia*

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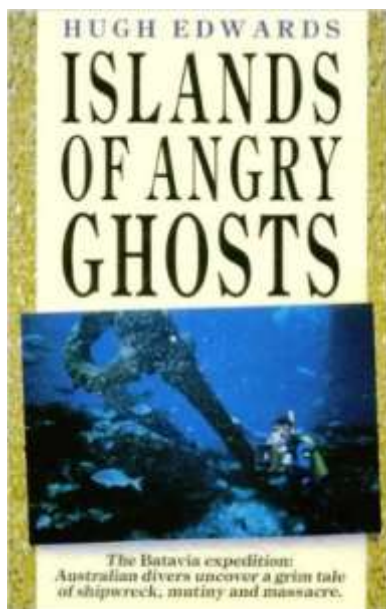
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Voor Jan Jansz, 1647 illustrated book; 22.0 x 16.0cm

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Title page of the *Unlucky Voyage of the Ship Batavia*

A Storage Box for 2x2s

By Frank Robinson¹

There are various ways to store the coins, tokens, and medals in our collections. One method is to place them in the card holders commonly referred to as “2x2s”, ie card holders with an inner thin plastic liner and measuring two inches by two inches (or 50 mm by 50 mm). The next question then is how do you store these?

Special boxes are commercially available; however I decided to try something different. I found that a commercially available plastic lunchbox could be adapted to store these 2x2s.

In one of our local “*el cheapo*” stores², I found a plastic box, described on the label as “My Hinged Lunch Box” made in Australia by Quadrant. This box has external dimensions of 210 x 140 x 75 mm.

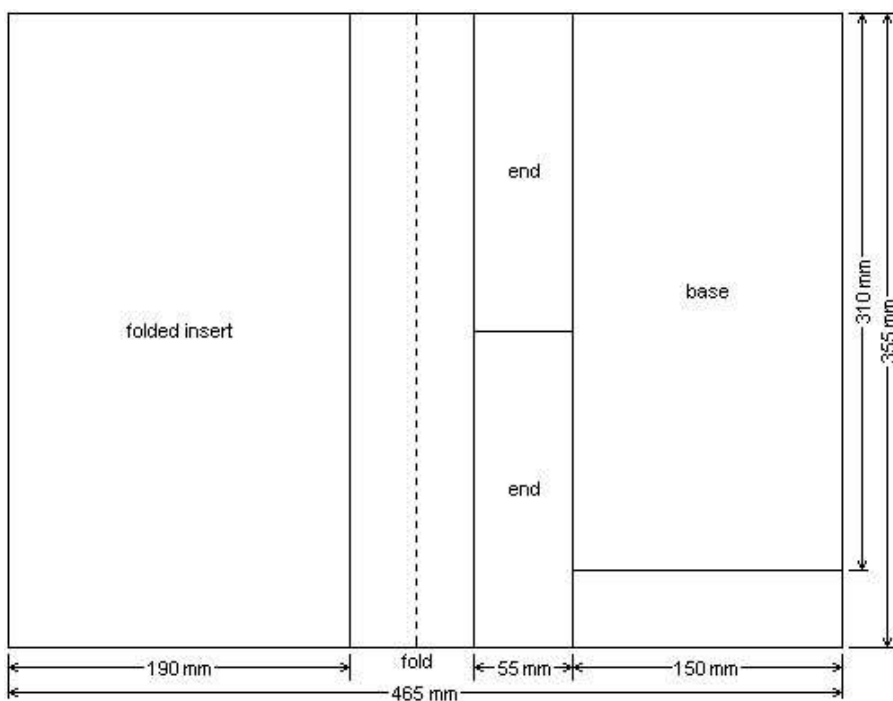


Figure 1 – Manila folder showing where to cut

¹ NAV member 713

² The Reject Shop

By cutting a foolscap size manila folder into several pieces, and making appropriate folds, it can be used as a liner and to segregate the box into two sections. The box can then house up to 180 2x2s.

Figure 1 shows a foolscap size manila folder (size 465 x 355 mm) marked with solid lines for cutting; the dashed line shows where the folder already has a fold. After cutting, there are two scrap pieces – the piece with the fold and the piece shown below the base.

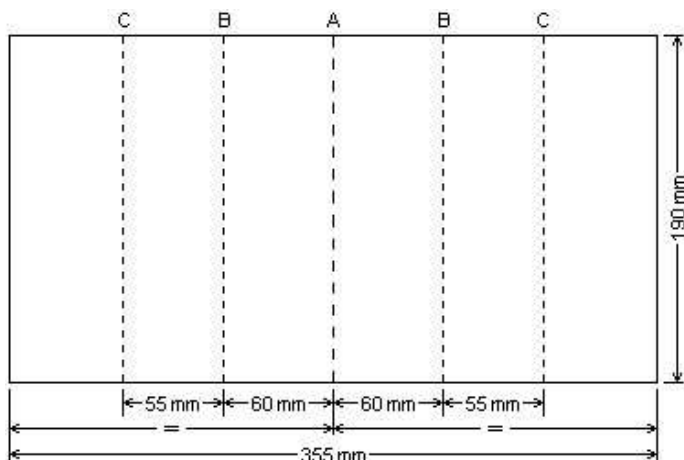


Figure 2 – Folded insert showing where to fold

Figure 2 shows where to make the folds (shown by dashed lines) on the folded insert. The first fold is along line A, which is the centre line. The next two folds are along the two lines marked as “B”; these folds are in the opposite direction to the fold along line A. The final two folds are along the two lines marked as “C”; these folds are in the same direction as for folds “B”.

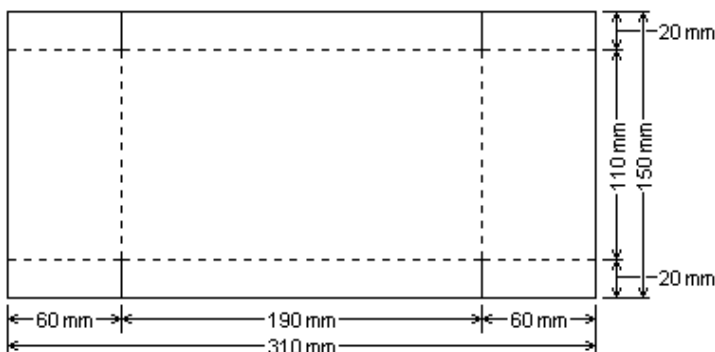


Figure 3 – Base showing where to cut and fold

Figure 3 shows the base; this requires four 20 mm cuts (shown by solid lines) before making the four folds (which are all in the same direction). When putting this piece into the plastic box, I folded the side flaps inside the end flaps.

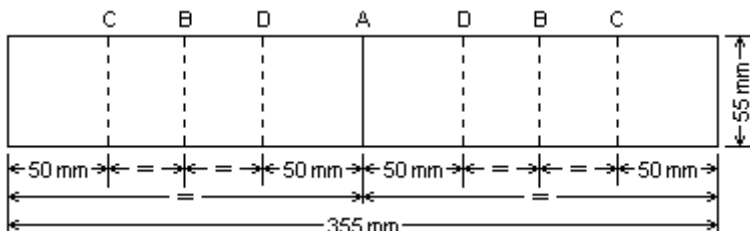


Figure 4 – Ends showing where to cut and fold

Figure 4 shows the two end pieces. These are cut at the centre line “A”. Each of these is then folded at their centre line “B”. The final two folds (for each piece) are at “C” and “D”; these folds are in the opposite direction to the fold along line B.

To assemble, first place the base inside the plastic box. Next place the two end pieces with their “B” line folds inside the “A” line fold of the folded insert. Figure 5 shows the completed box. A card with information of the contents of the box may then be slipped in one end inside the plastic box so that it can be read from the outside.

The boxes cost \$2.50 and manila folders cost between 20 and 40 cents each (depending on the quantity purchased), making a total cost of less than \$3.



Figure 5 – The completed box: open (left) and closed (right)

Rectangles, 60 x 50 mm, of manila card can be used as subject markers. Likewise squares, 50 x 50 mm, of manila card can be used between the 2x2s to lessen the likelihood of damage from rubbing.

The Centenary Florin – Victoria's Own Coin

By Vince Verheyen¹

This article is based on a lecture I gave recently on the Centenary florin. The focus here is on the background to its production in Melbourne and new information from research into Mint records on the various dies used to strike them, along with population data, etc. It follows on from articles on the subject published by Len Henderson in 2006 in *The Australian Numismatist*² and by the author in the CAB magazine³. This commemorative coin is unique in Australia's predecimal issues in that it includes a "once only" obverse with no Latin text, has two dates, includes the name of a city and was requested by a committee as a fund raiser only available at a 50% premium over face value.



Centenary florin reverse

COMMEMORATIVE COIN PROPOSAL

The Centenary Executive Committee and Celebrations Council were a veritable who's who of Melbourne's influential people of the day including Sidney Myer, Sir Macperson Robertson and W Russell Grimwade amongst a host of politicians, military and government officials. That the committee could convince the Commonwealth Government to agree to mint such a parochial coin indicates the political influence it could muster. It's remarkable even today that this coin could be requested, designed, approved, struck and issued within an eight month period.

The Committee decided that a commemorative coin would provide a significant boost to its fundraising given the costs associated with all the Centenary activities planned:

- ie a nominal £3750 gross if all 75 000 sold at the shilling premium – a precedent had been set previously in USA eg 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition where the gold commemorative coins were already selling at a significant premium. Councillor Nettlefold certainly talked up the

¹ Vince presented this paper to Morwell Numismatic Society meeting on 7 December 2015

² 2006 issue, pp 72-82

³ Vol 10 No 7, pp 30-36, 2007

investment angle for the florin in the press⁴. The Committee had also requested in February that 1934 dated sovereigns be specially struck (after obtaining permission from the Commonwealth Government) to the dismay of the Mint and this idea was eventually abandoned perhaps given their need to come up with 1000 ounces of gold.

Kruger Gray was commissioned by later Sir R Johnson (London DMM⁵) on 9 July 1934 to prepare the reverse based on the cover of the Centenary pamphlet (official logo) with amendments requested by the Australian Government via their agent general in London, Australia's High Commissioner Mr Stanley Bruce⁶, along with expat bank and branch mint officials who were authorised to expeditiously finalise the design after its evaluation by the Royal Mints own standing (design) committee (see below). Johnson's instructions were straight forward:

- Florin must be added;
- Figure of horseman to be shown in profile with torch redrawn;
- Oval surround to be omitted "Centenary Victoria Melbourne 1934-5" to encircle the coin.



The cover of the Centenary Pamphlet given to Gray

Gray was expected to complete a plaster model of the design within three weeks for £100. Johnson added a postscript advising Gray that the obverse would be the same as the Southern Rhodesia issues with the bust coming right to the edge (this is problematic in coining due to the amount of metal flow towards the rim during its striking impacting on the reverse design in this area). The model was prepared on time and submitted for evaluation by the standing committee Johnson had previously set up with royal assent. This committee advised on all matters connected with the designing of coins, medals and decorations. Their minutes (meeting held 27 July) revealed they were not terribly impressed with Gray's model, but acknowledged he had to follow a set piece. They suggested:

⁴ *Star*, Wednesday 31 October 1934

⁵ Deputy Master of the Mint

⁶ Former Prime Minister

- The torch appeared to be resting on the horse's main so it should be raised slightly to be clear of the animal;
- The neck of the horse was not anatomically correct; and
- The lettering was rather too strong for the central design.

These minor changes were adopted by Gray and the master tool / hub prepared in the Tower Hill premises of the Mint. The design was officially proclaimed (Australian Government) on 8 October 1934.



George Kruger-Gray

HUBS AND DIES RECEIVED FROM LONDON

Pressure was on for the 18 October 1934 official opening by the Duke of Gloucester.

In a letter dated 16/10/1934 to the DMM London, Melbourne acknowledged four pairs of dies (negative image) sent out plus reverse and obverse punches (or hubs – positive image) to make more. The first florin was struck on Tuesday 9 October by his Excellency the Governor of Victoria in the presence of the Premier and Lord Mayor. The DMM went on to write that the “*coins have been issued and are on sale at the banks. Enclosed a specimen for the Mint museum.*” This last sentence is important in that it refers to specimen florins being available on 16 October.

MINT PROBLEMS

DMM letter to London (15/10/34) stated:

The dies you sent were a splendid shape although we found the pressure required was somewhat heavier than on our ordinary florins. The general opinion amongst the officers is that this is the best coin we have struck for many years. We got the dies on Friday morning and started striking Tuesday morning and finished on Friday. So four Centenary die pairs were received and striking officially began the following Tuesday 9th Oct and finished on the Friday. 12th Oct. 1934.

His letter went on to state “*the hand was the last to come up together with the “Florin”. Your edge puts ours to shame- had not the time to get a better marking. Had we been able to reverse the position of the dies the result might have been a better edge.* I wonder if the DMM was in fact discussing the rim of the coin instead of its vertical 3rd side!

Variations in die finish for the Centenary florin – no mixed finishes are known



All over mirror finish produced by polished dies (Type 3 & C)



Typical reverse cameo finish revealing matte fields with more polished design details (Types 1-2 A & B)



Cameo finish revealing mirror fields with matte design details (Proof like)

Issues to Treasury were recorded for the 12 October 34 000 pieces and 15 October 41 000 pieces.⁷

DIES AND HUBS DESTROYED

On 1 November 1934; six obverse and 10 reverse dies were destroyed along with the means to make any more (the reverse hub – I expect the words punch (used by the DMM, H McCay) and hub (used by Chief Technical Officer W Francis) were interchangeable). The obverse hub was retained in case Percy Metcalfe's new art deco inspired King George V effigy was needed again. So the Melbourne Mint made an extra two obverse and six reverse dies. Where they all used? If they were, given the odd numbers there must be muled die pairings! A population bias may be expected in these die pairings caused by melting 21 of the 75 thousands struck resulting in some much scarcer combinations. Population studies confirm this and it's in accord with either longer press runs on some die pairs and / or the bags of melted coins deriving from particular die combinations if they were bagged directly from individual presses. Fortunately very few Centenary florins appear worn from circulation as they were naturally hoarded given their issue 1/- premium. This makes the search for die markers relatively straight forward.

DIE MARKERS

The search for additional dies continues by dedicated numismatists with Mathew Eddison discovering a third die pairing which I have labelled C after the A and B versions I previously reported. The Type C is struck from more evenly polished dies (see illustration on previous page and back cover). Mathew has also discovered an additional obverse I have labelled D along with some muled die combinations. This makes a total of four “regular” obverse dies and two proof-like dies now recorded and their sum equates with the six destroyed by the Mint. Assigning markers for the 10 reverse dies is still a work in progress and one must also consider not all the dies were necessarily used. My investigations suggest some of the reverse die markers are common across several dies suggesting the single hub used for their manufacture developed these marks during use.

Given the issue was completed on 12 October and the dies were destroyed on 1 November, this left only 13 working days for any additional experimentation and the striking of proofs / specimens which typically took place at the end of a coinage.

The Mint shipped to H G Williams his first allocation of six centenary florins on 17 October and a further 50 specimens on the 8 November.

⁷ W. Mullet Mint records ref 381/34 T14

There has been some controversy regarding the reason for the typical absence of a nipple on the naked rider. A fully struck chest is extremely rare with less than 20 examples known. The mint would not bother with any cover up of a nipple (in a working die) it's the least likely scenario given the effort that would be required. One plausible theory is that some metal flakes/debris from the planchets simply filled it in rather rapidly – this could explain why its only so far confirmed from only two reverse dies (with the first nipple version from a proof like reverse only just confirmed). It may also be related to die production from the reverse hub. The hub (being a positive or coin image) would be where you could remove the nipple or fail to impress it on the dies – my theories are:

- 1 the Mint workers were worried about damaging the hub and simply reduced the pressure on it whilst preparing the reverse dies leading to variation in the quality of the riders chest area.
- 2 the hub got damaged in the nipple area, it is after all the highest point on the hub.

KLAUS FORD RESEARCH

- Klaus has examined more than 600 Centenaries (mostly at auctions) since I wrote the initial article in CAB in 2007.
- He found on average, around one in every eleven Centenaries in existence (9%) are struck from either the Type 1 (4% of total) or Type 2 (5% of total) “proof-like” die pairs. These are the dies with the polished fields and matte design (cameo appearance) in contrast to the matte fields or all over polish of the rest. So these “proof-like” versions are certainly the rarer varieties with the Type 1 the scarcest at around 1 in every 25 Centenary florins examined.

CONCLUSIONS

The Centenary florin is a perennial favourite amongst predecimal collectors and merits a book in its own right:

- it has a fascinating background involving celebration, politics and power contrasting a failure to achieve anticipated sales and subsequent destruction of one third of its meagre mintage.
- the numismatic complexity hits a sweet spot in terms of the number of dies prepared – direct evidence of the effort by the Melbourne Mint to deliver the best finish and strike quality. They obviously wanted to do their home city proud.
- It has just enough rarity to still be collectable and its hoarding ensures the quality of those surviving makes the study of its various finishes and die markers a relatively straight forward task.



A used Foy and Gibson envelope

A typical Foys catalogue from the period



The new Foys department store NE corner of Bourke and Swanston Sts mentioned on the envelope – its still there but with extensive additions and renovations

Foy and Gibson, known as Foys, were a major Australian department store chain in the early to mid 20th century. Their trading operation and store layouts were modelled on overseas stores of the period. The bulk of their merchandise was locally manufactured in what was described as the largest factory complex in the Southern hemisphere⁸. This employed 2000 people and Foys were the major employer in the Melbourne suburb of Collingwood. This deep Melbourne connection helps explain their bail out of the Melbourne Centenary Committee's florin fundraiser.



Foy and Gibson's Collingwood warehouses

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Reference to Mint records relates to those in the Public Record Office Victoria Outward Correspondence (Royal Mint) VPRS 644/P0000/34-53 and London Nation Archives, Mint 20_1344

⁸ <http://australiaforeveryone.com.au/melbourne/lost-foy-gibson.html>

ANNUAL REPORTS

MELBOURNE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2015

MELBOURNE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY INC.	12 th November 2015.
Statement of accounts for 2015.	
Balance Brought Forward January 2015.	\$2000.96.
EXPENSES.	
Hire of Meeting Hall for 12 months including Public Liability.	\$356.20.
Consumer Affairs	\$53.00.
Hire of St John's School Hall for coin exhibition.	\$275.00.
Public Liability Insurance for coin exhibition.	\$431.00.
Postage of 3 rd Prize. [Prize from Raffle]	\$11.50.
Total Expenses.	\$1126.70.
INCOME.	
Members Annual Subscriptions	\$570.00.
Donation Coin Show [Dealers]	\$100.00.
Coin Show Entry, Raffle and Kitchen.	\$340.40.
Total Income.	\$1010.40.
Balance B/F	\$2000.96.
Income	\$1010.40.
Expenses.	\$1126.70.
Current Balance.	\$1934.66 [As per cheque book] Plus Cash \$120.00 in hand.
Prepared by John Baker [Treasurer]	

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2016 AGM

Last year, we were able to hold our biennial coin show, after a dearth of three years at a new venue – St John the Evangelist in Mitcham. This turned out to be a very suitable location, with secure arrangements at the reception desk and there was even a small profit. However, it was thought that, next time we

organised a coin show, we should make sure that it is away from school holidays and, this time, it coincided with the ANDA / APTA fair and it was thought that, on a different day, there would have been more participation from children and coin dealers as judges.

The MNS had participated and contributed displays in collaboration with the NAV and ANDA at their Fair; this time at a new venue – Bayview on the Park at Queens Road, Melbourne on the August weekend of 22nd and 23rd. This turned out to be a really first class venue. In fact ANDA said it had been their most successful for some years. Because there were, of course, facilities for meals, snacks and drinks on-site, this also kept the customers there for longer and the volunteers really appreciated it.

It was also decided, due to high public liability insurance costs and the necessity to get a grant, that we hold our Coin Fair in the latter part of 2016. This will enable us to get 2 years of public liability insurance and 2 years of grants. This will be on Saturday October the 22nd at St John the Evangelist, Coghan Centre, Mitcham from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Betty is now our Centenarian, as she turned 100 on 25th April. Unfortunately, she had a fall a couple of months before and it has made her very debilitated indeed. Canberra were keen on making a big press event, as there are not too many 'Gallipoli babies' around. However, she was still able to celebrate with her family and was visited by the local MP and given the letter from Queen Elizabeth II, who is now Britain's longest reigning monarch and Europe's except for Louis XIV, who apparently reigned 72 years and 110 days. But for 18 years his mother, Anne of Austria was regent together with Cardinal Mazarin (so a bit of cheating by the French). Betty was also given letters from Federal and State leaders and councillors of Box Hill. She also received a special certificate from Legacy, so even though it was more 'low key' it was still a memorable occasion.

At our December breakup meeting it was decided for the first time to deviate from our usual talks on "Interests other than Numismatic" and hold an Auction. This was quite a success, with earnest bidding accounting for all but 2 of the 32 lots and Tim in charge as our auctioneer. Most of the items were not far off their estimated worth and some actually went over. Due to the generosity of some of our members donating the full quota, instead of just 10%, the net profit was \$245.90. Special thanks to Paul who donated the full sum of quite a few lots.

At our February, 2016 meeting, it was decided for the MNS to have its own web site.

During the year we had an average of 14 members attending per meeting. Out of a total of 20 members this year this was a very solid effort.

Thanks to all members who have entertained us throughout the year with singular finds and short talks and again a very special thanks to Steele Waterman, who is always very entertaining with his anecdotes, histories and tales and Darren who had regaled us with his splendid description of many of the 8000 items in the collection of the Melbourne City Council. The history behind some of them and the examples shown on the projector really enthralled us.

Many thanks to Joan and Stan for supplying our supper each meeting and Bob for hosting us hospitably at his home for council meetings.

Monica de Knecht
Secretary, Melbourne Numismatic Society

NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015

I can safely say that 2015 was a year of growth for the NAV. Our membership grew and our reach was extended through social media, with now over 200 people following us from around the world on Facebook and a similar level of interest on Twitter. We've successfully tried new ideas, with a whole meeting dedicated to a lively discussion about third party grading, and collaborated with other Victorian Societies to create the forthcoming Victorian Numismatic Journal.

We've also stuck true to our traditions with the release of one of our most successful medallions, commemorating the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign; and the ANDA show was again well attended, with members of both the NAV and Melbourne Numismatic Society participating in not only providing displays but assisting with information, manning the ticketing, and supporting sales at the ANDA table. Our meetings have been generally well attended and participation has been encouraged.

All of this would not have been possible were it not for the support and efforts of our members. Members like Pat Shields and Ross Wilkinson, whose continued contribution through the tender sales and donation auction has helped us enormously; and Bruce McElholum who continues to bring in some of the most fascinating items for us all to learn more about.

Of course we would not have achieved half of what we've accomplished if it wasn't for the input of our small but dedicated council. Bill Xynos is my right hand man (well that's where he sits during meetings at least) and always comes through with the minutes and organises our participation in the ANDA fair, the cornerstone of our numismatic calendar.

Frank Robinson's experience is invaluable and irreplaceable. Always there with advice and a lectern, his unrealised design skills were given an airing this year, with his fantastic work on our very successful commemorative medallion. The medallion was certainly a collaborative effort with David Likar making the initial suggestion for the theme, Ron Ashworth making some preliminary sketches and Dr John Chapman offering a key design suggestion. Even I got involved, mainly dealing with the wonderful Barrie Newman of the Adelaide Mint, which was hardly a chore.

David Likar has been thoroughly dependable as our treasurer from some time and although he's stepping down, that just means he's got more time to devote to presenting another possibly award winning paper? David's replacement is the more that capable, and truly ebullient, Tony Gordon. Tony has been a constant stream of ideas and is always looking at ways we can encourage membership and bring in revenue. I couldn't ask for a better person to fill the gap that David is leaving.

I finally would like to thank each and every one of our members, as without you there is no NAV. Hopefully your numismatic appetites were satiated and we certainly aim to continue to improve and grow as we enter 2016, our 70th year.

Darren Burgess
President, Numismatic Association of Victoria

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2015

Dear members and friends,

This year has been very exciting for the Association. I would have never imagined that we would enjoy another series of presentations touching on a wide variety of numismatics, from ancients to medieval, from banknotes to medals, and even on the difficult and most-engaging subject – that of coin grading. With some imagination and bravery, presentations are achievable, as members Jane Ventur and Bruce McElholum demonstrated the first time. The strong competition for the prestigious Max Stern Award Trophy resulted in its sharing between members Bruce McElholum and Ross Wilkinson. Well done to **all** Syllabus participants.

Medallions have always been the Association's strength in promoting numismatics and, for this year, the unique commemoration of the 'Gallipoli Centenary' was selected for developing a medal. Designed by Frank Robinson and struck in Adelaide, this stunning example details the map of the Dardanelles, superimposed by an enamelled miniature of the Victoria Cross, in reference to the VC medal awarded to Lance-Corporal Albert Jacka of 14th Battalion.

Victorian Numismatic Journal

Our promotions continued at the ANDA Melbourne Show. Multi-Club volunteering made the ANDA show a success. The competitive exhibition attracted more displays drawing positive comments and accolades from the public and dealers. Darren Burgess produced two equally best-judged exhibits, earning him with the Terry Pepperell Shield, while Bill Xynos was awarded with the Tom May Award for the most popular exhibit. My appreciation goes to Mrs Lorna Pepperell for her support and to all volunteers, judges and exhibitors.

We also attended the Christmas functions of the Morwell and Melbourne Numismatic Societies, as well as a “Ceylon Coinage” presentation arranged in February by the Ceylon Society of Australia.

Membership changes are part of our evolution. Sadly, we’ve lost three knowledgeable members – Trevor White, Ian Young and Chris Haymes. Ian was one of our foundation members and Chris sparked our interest in archaeology and related numismatic history. On a positive note, eight new members have joined our family and a further nine members were rewarded for their long-term loyalty. These included Betty Turvey, who celebrated her 100th birthday on ANZAC day, and Max Stern, who donated the NAV trophy for the best numismatic presentation in the year. We all wish them a strong and healthy 2016.

The Council has worked hard. Our President applied his professionalism and commitment to promote the Association, thanks to the strong backing by David, Frank and Tony. There is no doubt that 2016 will be challenging. Tony’s future vision of our publication will become a reality as the Geelong, the Melbourne and the Morwell Numismatic Society will participate and contribute to the new ***Victorian Numismatic Journal***, catering for the needs of all Victorian collectors.

Finally, our Treasurer David Likar has decided to step down after 13 years of Council service. As with our previous Treasurer, Peter Hamilton, David’s guidance has maintained the viability of the NAV under difficult circumstances. His contribution has been enormous and the Council and members thank him for his services.

In closing the report, we will continue the hard work in 2016, the year that will mark the Association’s 70th anniversary since its foundation. Your goodwill and volunteering are appreciated once again and I wish you a healthy and happy new year.

Bill Xynos
Secretary, Numismatic Association of Victoria

TREASURER'S REPORT 2015

N.A.V. STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE									
1st OCTOBER 2014 TO 31st th DECEMBER 2015									
RECEIPTS					EXPENDITURE				
	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$
BANK BALANCES b/wed Incl. 1/10/2014					SOCIAL	Caring Xmas 2014	327.00		
General Acc @ 1/10/2014	24,765.09		2,303.92		Caring Xmas 2015		394.40		
Investment Acc @ 1/10/2014*	2,254.91				Monthly Meetings		710.00		1,431.40
Stan Church Award Acc @ 1/10/2014 *		27,000.00		29,303.92	PRINTING	Journal	2,538.80		2,538.80
FEE'S					POSTAGE/STATIONARY		923.98		923.98
Arises - 2014	70.00				ANDA FAIR 2014 (MNS)		50.00		50.00
Current - 2015	1,750.00				NAV TROPHIES/AWARDS		263.60		1,263.60
Advance - 2016	210.00		2,030.00		2015 ANZAC MEDAL		6,787.67		6,787.67
Other	0.00				VENUE RENTAL 2014/15		360.00		360.00
SALES					Sundry		12.00		12.00
Tender	125.00		7,884.00		NAA JOURNAL		600.00		600.00
2015 Anzac Medal	7,005.00				NAV WEBSITE		251.90		251.90
Postage Anzac Medal	122.00				NAV FLYER - Club Promotion		95.00		95.00
Other Medals	500.00				TOTAL EXPENDITURE				14,294.35
Journals	84.00				BANK BALANCES @31/12/2015				
NAV Lib Books	43.00				General Acc		5,484.57		
DONATIONS					Investment Acc *		20,885.80		
Donation Auctions	32.00		2,361.00		Stan Church Acc*		2,342.62		28,712.99
ANDA FAIR Aug 2014	200.00	200.00			TOTAL				43,007.34
SUNDRIES	0.00	0.00							
INTEREST									
General Acc	0.00								
Investment Acc	1,120.71		1,228.42						
Stan Church Acc	107.71								
TOTAL RECEIPTS			13,703.42						
TOTAL			43,007.34						
* Stan Church Acc & Investment Acc are combined as a Term Deposit					# MNS - Melbourne Numismatic Society assistance to man tables at the ANDA Fair, Aug 14				
PRESIDENT	TREASURER		AUDITED BY:		13/01/16				

The 2014 – 2015 NAV Extended Financial Year (1/10/14 to 31/12/15) has recorded a deficit of \$590.93.

An extra three months has been added to the reporting period due to the NAV Financial year changing from 1st October to 30th September to the Calendar Year (1st January to 31st December).

This year I am stepping down as NAV Treasurer after a run of 9 years. I would like to thank all who have assisted over this period with a special thanks to our auditor Mr Noel Lodge.

In closing I wish all the best for our new Treasurer Tony Gordon, who I am sure will bring his usual enthusiasm to the role.

Thankyou,

David Likar, NAV Treasurer

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ANDA Money Expo

Tennis Centre, Olympic Park, Melbourne
Saturday and Sunday 27 & 28 August

APTA Stamp & Coin Show

Melbourne Sports Hub, Aughtie Drive, South Melbourne; 10:00 – 4:00
Saturday 18 June

Bentleigh Stamp, Coin & Banknote Fairs

McKinnon Youth Centre, Higgins Road (off Jasper Rd), Bentleigh; 9:00 – 2:30
Sunday 19 June, 17 July, 21 August

Burwood Heights Uniting Church Stamp, Coin & Postcards Fair

Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd, entry from Blackburn Rd; 9:00 – 3:30
Saturday 25 June

Nunawading Stamp, Coin & Banknote Fairs

Jaycees Hall, Silver Grove, Nunawading; 9:00 – 3:30
Sunday 26 June, 31 July, 28 August

Strathmore Stamp, Coin & Banknote Fairs

Strathmore Bowling Club, 40 Loeman Street, Strathmore; 9:00 – 3:30
Sunday 5 June, 3 July, 7 August

Warragul Stamp & Coin Fair

Exhibition Hall, Howitt Street, Warragul; 9:00 – 4:00
Saturday 4 June

FORWARD SYLLABUS 2016

GEELONG NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

No	Date	Topic	Speaker
515	24 June	Fantasy Coins	
516	22 July	Including AGM	
517	26 August	Australian Sovereigns	Dave

MELBOURNE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

No	Date	Topic	Speaker
	9 June	The VOC and its Coinage	Monica de Knecht
	14 July	Coin Auction	---
	11 August	Miss-strikes and error coins	Jan de Knecht

MORWELL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

No	Date	Topic	Speaker or Quiz Master
	6 June		Allan
	4 July	Including AGM	Rob
	1 August		Tilo

NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

No	Date	Topic	Speaker
1035	17 June	Buy the Book Before You Buy the Coin (Tender Sale)	Len Henderson
1036	15 July	Ray Jewell Memorial Meeting Ancient Greek Civilization – Numismatic Reflections	Bill Xynos
1037	19 August	Theme night – August in History (Tender Sale)	(various)

OFFICE BEARERS

Geelong Numismatic Society <i>Founded 1965</i> President: Tony Alsop Secretary: Gerland Bell Treasurer: Amber Barrow	Melbourne Numismatic Society <i>Founded 1965</i> President: Michael Wade Vice Presidents: John Baker Paul Suter Secretary: Monica de Knecht Treasurer: John Baker Councillors: Bob Safstrom Tim Wheeler Jan de Knecht
Morwell Numismatic Society <i>Founded 1965</i> President: Tilo Junge Vice President: Peter Newell Secretary: Vince Verheyen Treasurer: Gary Patten Newsletter & Publicity Officer: Tilo Junge	Numismatic Association of Victoria <i>Founded 1946</i> President: Darren Burgess Vice President: Frank Robinson Secretary: Bill Xynos Treasurer: Tony Gordon Councillors: (vacant)

Advertorial – Classy Collectables

Classy Collectables have been operating for over 30 years in the trade and our services aim to please Australian and World banknote collectors in Australia and beyond. We participate at most numismatic fairs organised by ANDA and APTA, and we attend local events in Warragul (June) and Morwell (November).

Classy Collectables posts out a regular 'World Banknote' price list to its customers. This comprehensive listing contains banknotes in country and Pick No Order and, from time to time, promotes a number of banknotes at a special price. We assist you with your special needs and will tap into our network of banknote suppliers for locating that elusive banknote. We can also organise for storage accessories to be supplied to you.

Our payment arrangements are flexible. Accepted methods for payment are by cash, direct deposit, personal cheque, money order, PayPal, MasterCard and Visa card. Lay-by arrangements are also available. For 'registered' orders of A\$100 and above, postage and packing is free, else, it's only A\$5.

You are most welcomed to contact us for your requirements. Finally, we are delighted in supporting the *Victorian Numismatic Journal*. Thank you

The VOC Ship *Batavia*

(see article commencing on page 15)



A section of the hull of the Batavia in the WA Museum Shipwreck Galleries



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(pre-1911).

Please contact Rion on
vzs2000@yahoo.com.au

The Centenary Florin – Victoria's Own Coin

(see article commencing on page 34)

Variations in die finish for the Centenary florin – no mixed finishes are known



All over mirror finish produced by polished dies (Type 3 & C)



Typical reverse cameo finish revealing matte fields with more polished design details (Types 1-2 A & B)



Cameo finish revealing mirror fields with matte design details (Proof like)