

Geelong  
Numismatic  
Society

Journal

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GEE LONG NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
(Founded 1965)

P.O.Box 423, G.P.O.,  
Geelong 3220, Victoria,

AUSTRALIA

President

President

N.M.Clement

Hon. Secretary

K.D.C.Bain

Hon. Treasurer

E.S.Bond

Monthly Meetings - Fourth Friday of each Month  
8.00 pm. Guild Hall, Myers St., Geelong.

VOLUME 2 - Number 1

AUGUST 1969

E D I T O R I A L

Dear Member,

This month, as you can already see, we are producing for you a new Journal in a different form from the Bulletins you have been finding very informative over the last couple of years. This does not mean that from this point on the Journal will cease to be informative - far from it. The reason for changing its form is so that we can improve its usefulness to you, by combining all that is available in the way of news of the Society's affairs, Notices of Meetings and Programme, etc., with as many articles as we can find of general interest to all our Members.

It is our intention to experiment a little with the layout of this Journal, until we think that we have something both practical and useful - and you can help a great deal in this. If you like our efforts, tell us so, by all means, but more importantly, tell us what you don't like about the contents so that we can improve the appeal of the Journal to everybody in the Society. With your help in this way, we think we can finish up with a Journal we can be proud of as a Society, and which at some future date others Societies and Clubs will look forward to receiving.

So, we look for your help and comments - it is not very easy to interpret and benefit from your silence, remember. Also we hope that many of you will offer the practical assistance of contributing short articles of general interest.

G. N. S. NEWSAUGUST MEETING

The August Meeting will be held this Friday, 22nd August, at the Guild Hall at 8.00 p.m.

The Programme for this Meeting, as indicated last month, will be an informal TRADING NIGHT to enable Members to bring spare material they are willing to exchange, and also their Want Lists with the hope and intention of acquiring wanted items.

There will also be a Panel in attendance, comprising Eric Jones, David Lamb, Erling Andersen and Bern Carey, whose function will be to assist with specific information (Panel please note) on any material put before them, in the way of identification, condition grading, etc.

There will also be displays provided by F. Lehmann and Tiny Mayer - don't forget to examine these displays and ask any questions of those gentlemen.

The approximate Timetable for the evening will be as follows:-

Bourse (Fixed Price Table) -	7.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.
	8.30 p.m. - Close
General Society Business	8.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.
TRADING TIME	8.30 p.m. - 9.45 p.m.
Tender Sale (See pp.6/7)	9.45 p.m.

We look forward to seeing as many Members and their friends as possible and feel sure it will be an enjoyable and instructive meeting.

COMING MEETINGSFriday, September 26th

Arrangements are being made, by Peter Olsen to invite a Guest Speaker, and also there will be a Competition.

Friday, October 24th

Eric Jones is finalising details for the Society to hold a Meeting at Ocean Grove - further information later.

VISIT

The Melbourne Numismatic Society has been approached regarding a proposed visit by Members of this Society to its Monthly Meeting on Thursday, 9th October. Details in September Journal.

NEW ISSUES

Our Purchasing Officer has ordered FIVE Jamaican 1969 Decimal Sets which will be for sale at \$ 3.70 per set when received. Also TEN Turks and Caicos Islands 1969 Crowns have been ordered and these will be available at \$ 2.10.

We have written to the Royal Australian Mint, Canberra, for Order Forms for 1969 Australian Decimal Proof Sets, and your orders for these will be accepted once we have details of availability and numbers. These sets will be in plastic cases and will be \$10.00 per set from the Mint

SALES

At the July Meeting, 28 Lots were sold in the Tender Sale and 2 Lots were passed in unsold.

The same evening, 35 items were sold in the Bourse for a total of \$ 7.05.

V.C.N.S. CONVENTION

The 1970 Convention of the Victorian Council of Numismatic Societies will be held in Bendigo, probably on the long week-end in March.

Each member Society or Club is to be asked to present a competitive display on a theme of its own choosing. It has been suggested that our Society might present the Colonial series of Edward VII, and we are planning to call for information and displays by our Members during the next few months, so that we can establish what specimens our Society can muster for this joint effort. If it is found that a good presentation would be possible, this theme might be adopted as our Society's entry for that part of the 1970 Convention.

JOURNALS

We wish to acknowledge receipt of the following :-

Metropolitan Coin Club News.

Adelaide Coin Club Newsletter.

"Historia" - Journal of the Historical Medal Society of Australia and New Zealand.

V.C.N.S. Newsletter.

## MEDALS AND DECORATIONS

### No.1 The Victoria Cross

Instituted 29th January, 1856. For Conspicuous Bravery.

The V.C. is worn before all other British decorations, and together with only the George Cross, takes precedence over the Orders of Knighthood.

The Victoria Cross is a cross pattee of bronze, one-and-a-half inches in diameter, with the Royal Crown, surmounted by a lion, in the centre, and beneath it the inscription "For Valour". Holders of the V.C. receive a tax-free annuity of £100, irrespective of need or any other conditions. The ribbon is crimson for all services, although prior to 1918 it was blue for the Royal Navy.

In 1911 the right to receive the cross was extended to Indian soldiers, and in 1920 a Royal Warrant extended the right further to Matrons, Sisters and Nurses, and the Staff of the Nursing Services and other services pertaining to Hospitals and Nursing, and to Civil-ians of either sex regularly or temporarily under the orders, direct-  
-ion or supervision of the Naval, Military or Air Forces of the Crown.

Ever since its institution in 1856, the Victoria Cross has been made by the same London firm, Messrs. Hancocks & Co., of Vigo Street, the well-known Jewellers. Strangely enough, they do not make any other decorations. The crosses are cast (unlike most other awards, which are struck from dies) and then finished by hand. The War Office supplies the gunmetal as required, but as the chemical composition of this varies slightly from time to time, so the colour and contraction of the cooling metal also vary; consequently there are minor differ-  
-ences in the actual size and colour of the finished crosses.

The name and other particulars of the recipient are usually en-  
-graved on the reverse of the suspender bar, while the date or dates on which it was won are on the Cross itself in the centre circle of the reverse.

Perhaps the austerity of the Victoria Cross is of more symbolic importance than many realise - in spite of the appearance of its plain darkish ribbon and the dull bronze cross, it is impressive in its simplicity. The most highly esteemed of all British decorations, it is certainly the least ostentatious - and is still we believe cast from the metal of Russian cannon captured in the Crimea in 1856.

## MAUNDY MONEY

Each year the Royal Mint strikes a special series of silver coins known as Maundy Money. These coins consist of a penny, twopence, threepence and fourpence. Maundy coins are always struck in .925 fine silver, with the exception of the period from 1921 to 1926 when they were .500 fine. They are usually coined with a proof-like finish, and all have a plain edge as they are not intended for general circulation, despite the fact that they are legal tender.

The custom of distributing royal alms on Maundy Thursday (the day before Good Friday) has been carried on for centuries. The Kings and Queens of former years used to wash the feet of as many beggars as the monarch was years old, but this part of the ceremony has not been carried out since the reign of James II (1685-88). The distribution of alms is, however, continued each year.

The word "maundy" is derived from the Latin "mandatum" - which means a mandate or command. This was in fact the first word used in the ceremony of washing the feet of the poor people, in emulation of the Saviour's action on the eve of the Crucifixion, when Christ washed the feet of his disciples and gave them the "Mandatum Novum" or new commandment - "Love one another".

Special Maundy coins were first minted for Charles II in 1661. The ceremony of distributing the money is usually conducted at Westminster Abbey, when purses of Maundy Money are given to one man and one woman for each year of the Sovereign's age. In accordance with tradition, part of the money is contained in a white leather purse, part in a red leather purse, and part in a paper packet. The money in the white purse consists of a number of pence equal to the age of the reigning Sovereign.

The threepence is usually the scarcest coin in the Maundy series after 1845. In that year, this coin was first also minted for general circulation in Britain itself, and the scarcity of the Maundy coin must be due to the fact that many Maundy pieces found their way into normal circulation. In 1928, however, a change was made in the design of the regular threepence, whilst the Maundy threepence has remained unchanged throughout.

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Lot No.	Country of Issue	DESCRIPTION	No. of Coins	Cond'n	
801	England	Halfpennies 1861 - 1967	40	P-EF	20
802	England	Pennies 1897 - 1967	50	P-EF	50
803	England	Farthings 1853 & 1943	2	F	30
804	England	Crown 1839	1	VG	1-60
805	England	Victoria Jubilee Medallion - 1837 - 1897 "Prime Minister" 50mm	1	F	170
806	England	George V Jubilee Medal 1910 - 1935	1	VF	2
807	Australia	Florin 1935	1	F	30
808	Australia	Florin 1936	1	F-VF	40
809	Australia	Threepence 1947, 1950, 1962, 1963 Sixpence 1954, 1962	6	EF-UNC	20
810	Australia	Penny 1915, 1931.	2	F-VF	10
811	Australia	"Cessation of Transportation" Tasmania 1853 - 57mm	1		71
812	Netherlands	2½ Guilders 1960	1	F	60
813	Gibraltar	Crown 1968 (In Case)	1	EF	41-60
814	Guernsey	8 Doubles 1945	1	F-VF	60
815	France	Chambres de Commerce - 50 centimes 1922, 1 franc 1923, 2 franc 1924.	3	F	20
816	Mixture	S.E. Asia	8	F-EF	20
817	Canada	Bank of Canada One Penny Token 1857	1	VG-F	30
818	South Africa	Kruger 1 Pond 1896 - Imitation Sovereign	1	F	40
819	Siam	Porcelain Gambling Tokens	5		70
820	Madras	5, 10, 20 Cash 1803 - 08 (East India Co.)	3	P-VG	60
821	Mauritius	Quarter, Half, and One Rupee 1950	3	F	70
822	Fiji	Penny, Threepence, Sixpence, Shilling and Florin 1965	5	VF-EF	50
823	Europe	Europe	12	P-EF	30
824	New Zealand	Pennies 1940 - 1962 All diff. dates	10	F-VF	10
825	New Zealand	½d (6) 1d (3) 6d (2) 5c (1) All Diff.	12	G-EF	20
826	England	One Penny 1826 George IV	1		90
827	England	One Florin (Gothic) 1856	1	VG	1-60
828	England	Farthing Types(4) 1861, 1922, 1936, 1943	4	VG-F	20
829	England	Halfpennies 1877-1966 All diff. dates	25	P-VF	20
830	-	One Stiver 1838 Copper Token - "Trade & Navigation"	1	VG-F	51-50

POSTAL BID FORM

NOTE: To be valid, this form must be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary THREE CLEAR DAYS prior to the date of the Tender Sale to which it applies.

To the Tender Sale Organizer,

Please enter the Postal Bids shown on my behalf. I understand that the Society accepts no liability in respect of this notification.

Lot No.	Bid

Name & Address:  
(Please Print)

Mem.b. No.:..... Signature: .....

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For the record.....

PRICES REALISED AT TENDER SALE - JULY

Lot No	Price	Lot No	Price
701	0.30	716	0.40
702	0.50	717	1.00
703	0.20	718	0.70
704	1.90	719	0.30
705	1.00	720	0.40
706	1.20	721	0.30
707	0.30	722	1.10
708	1.50	723	1.10
709	0.60	724	(PI)
710	0.50	725	2.00
711	0.20	726	0.70
712	0.40	727	0.40
713	26.00	728	1.10
714	9.00	729	1.00
715	0.40	730	(PI)

The Hon. Secretary,  
Geelong Numismatic Society,  
Box 423, GPO,  
GEEELONG, 3220 Vic.

ATTENDANCE AT JULY MEETING

Members - 25  
Visitors - 4

## DECIMAL CURRENCY

South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, very shortly Britain - the changeover to decimals goes on, but are you aware of which one country has pride of place in the introduction of a modern decimal monetary system ?

It was neither the French (1793) nor the Americans (1792) and it was not even the Sierra Leone Company (1791). By a long way this honour goes to Russia - it really is something they thought of first, and about which they are, perhaps uncharacteristically, reticent.

Decimal coinage was introduced into Russia by Peter the Great ( 1689 - 1725 ), when along period of coinage reform culminated, in 1704, in the issue of the silver rouble of 100 kopecks.

The system has remained essentially unchanged in Russia to the present day.

## BRITANNIA ON THE COINAGE

The figure of Britannia was personified on Roman coins by two Emperors - Hadrian (AD 117-138) and Antoninus Pius (AD 138-161).

Several of the generals who went to Britain, siezed the reins of power and made themselves Emperors, had a mint mark placed on their coins, such as PLN, to show they were struck (in that case) in London.

The Romans almost certainly copied the figure of Britannia from ancient Greek coins used many centuries before. The Phoenician name Brattanac (which means "Land of Tin") points to the origin of the name. The Welsh people, who are descended from the ancient Celtic tribes of Britain, still call themselves "Brythons", the Celtic word "bryth" meaning 'painted'. It was, of course, the custom of the ancient tribes in Britain to paint their faces and bodies with woad.

The present well-known figure of Britannia on English bronze coins first appeared in 1672, on the copper coins of Charles II - about sixteen centuries after the Roman Emperors had their coins of the time struck with the name and a very similar figure.

\* \* \* \* \*

1780 and all that.....

The Royal Mint struck its last Maria Theresa Thaler in the early 1960's - that noble coin of high silver content, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter, which right to the present day has borne the date 1780 - the year in which the famous Archduchess of Austria died.

The Thaler, which has no fixed face value, is still used for trade in the Middle East - so when in 1935 Austria had bowed to the pressures applied by Hitler and Mussolini and given Rome the right to mint these coins, British traders had difficulty in getting an adequate supply of them. To make good this deficiency, the Royal Mint in London began striking the coins, and also the Bombay Mint struck many of them during the war years.

However, the original treaty with the Axis powers was for 25 years, and in 1962 the British Government agreed that Austria should resume her old rights, so Vienna once again became the sole source of the famous Thaler.

BOULTON'S CARTWHEELS

Few coins in the past or present have fired the imagination of collectors, particularly beginners, as the English Cartwheel Penny and Twopence of Matthew Boulton.

Boulton, partner of James Watt of steam engine fame in the firm of Boulton & Watt, of Soho, Birmingham, England, struck these coins in large quantities in 1797. At that period in England there was a flood of forged copper coins, with the result that the regular issue of copper coinage was discredited to such an extent that the Government of the day was compelled to take action. Public demand necessitated the provision of an acceptable coinage, and Boulton was successful in obtaining a contract to provide suitable coins.

Boulton used the new steam engine to power the coining presses, but in addition to this he introduced several other innovations. He used a collar to obtain accuracy in the diameter and shape of the coins in striking, and also used a heavy raised edge in the design as a means of protecting the coins against undue wear in circulation. The Twopence was 40mm. in diameter, and weighing two ounces of pure copper, it is aptly named the "cartwheel". These were, however, so neat and accurate that they were used as weights and measures by shopkeepers - eight of them weighing one pound, and the same eight laid side by side measuring one foot.

BANKNOTESStar Replacement Notes - Australia

Prior to 1948 it had been Australian practice to replace printer's spoils with notes bearing the same number as the discarded note. This individual numbering of replacements and their insertion in the correct position involved quite a considerable loss of time. It was, therefore, decided to adopt a practice, in use in the United States, of replacing the spoiled note with one which had a different number but which had a symbol indicating that it was a replacement note; notes used for this purpose have a five-pointed pierced star in the position normally occupied by the last figure of the serial number. This practice commenced in September 1948, and the first issues with a star bore the signatures of Armitage and McFarlane. At first these were confined to the ten shillings and one pound, but ultimately the same method was adopted with the £5 and £10.

This practice of distinguishing replacements was continued with the decimal currency notes, but an asterisk is used instead of a star. This applies to all denominations.

FROM THE PAST...

Lines written on the back of a worthless Confederate banknote in 1865, at the end of the American Civil War in which the Confederate States of the South were defeated:-

"Representing nothing on God's Earth now, and nought in the  
 Waters below it,  
 As the pledge of a Nation that passed away, keep it, Dear  
 Friend, and show it,  
 Show it to those who will lend an ear, to the tale that this  
 trifle will tell,  
 Of Liberty, born of a Patriot's dream; of a storm-cradled  
 Nation that fell."

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- "Numismatic" (1) Of, pertaining or relating to, coins or coinage.  
 (2) Consisting of coins  
 (3) (Substantive pl.) The study of coins and medals

THIS PAGE IS BEING  
RESERVED FOR  
A WANTED, EXCHANGE,  
AND FOR SALE MART

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